御伽草紙

猫絵十兵衛

ねこえじゅうべえおとぎぞうし

四

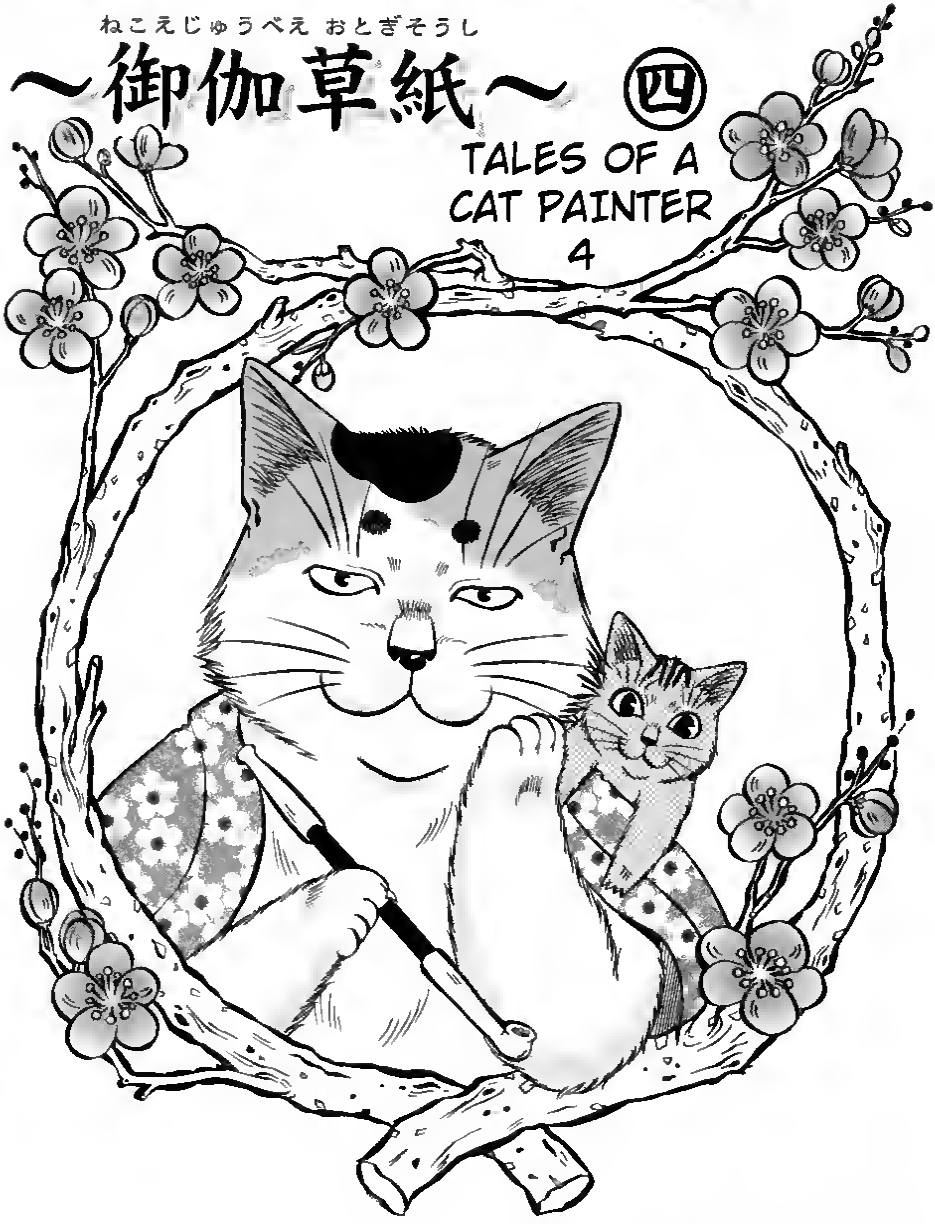
永尾まる
NAGAO MARU

猫絵十兵衛

～御伽草紙～ ④

ねこえじゅうべえ おとぎそうし

TALES OF A CAT PAINTER 4



永尾まる NAGAO MARU

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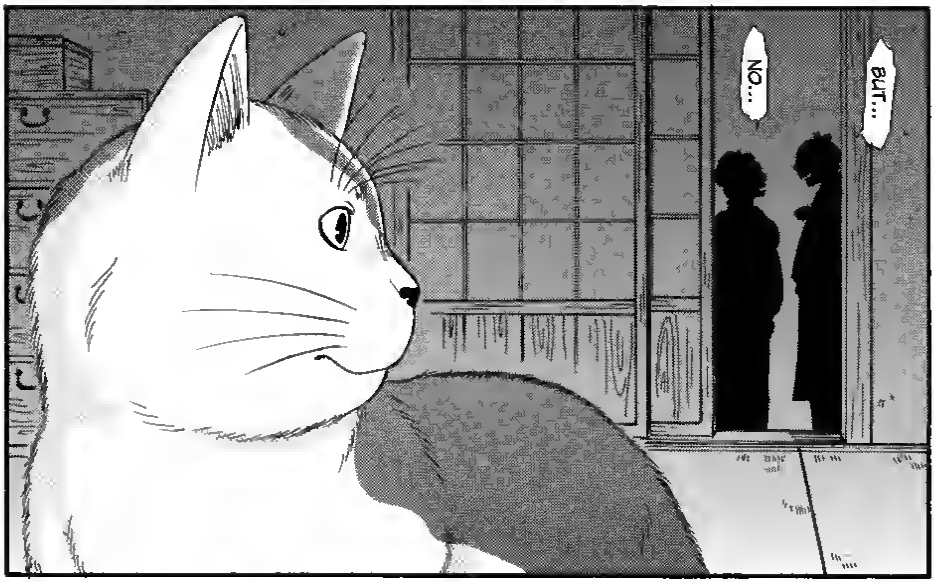
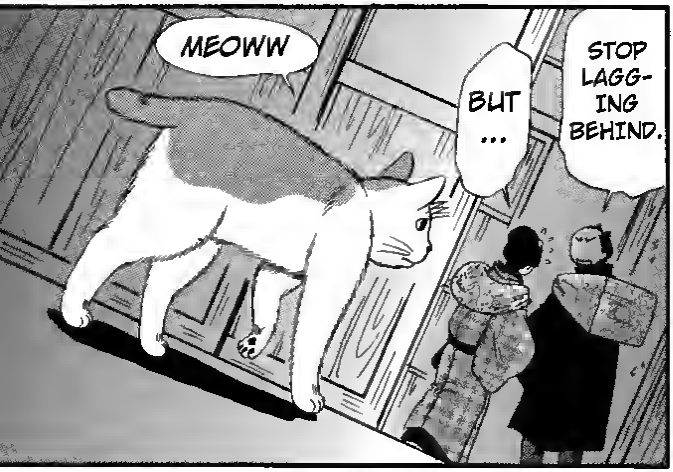
TALES OF A CAT PAINTER 4

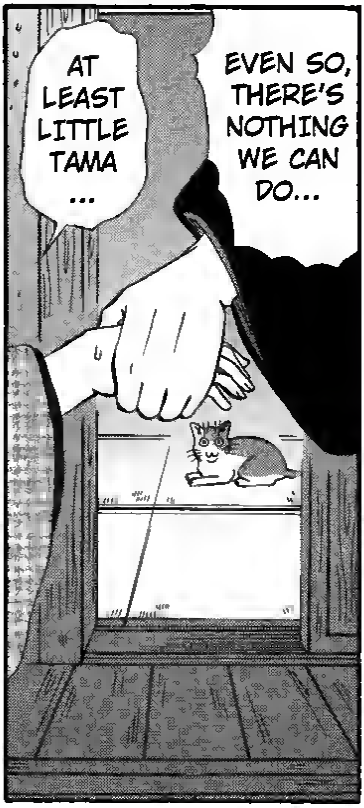
猫絵十兵衛 ～御伽草紙～ 四

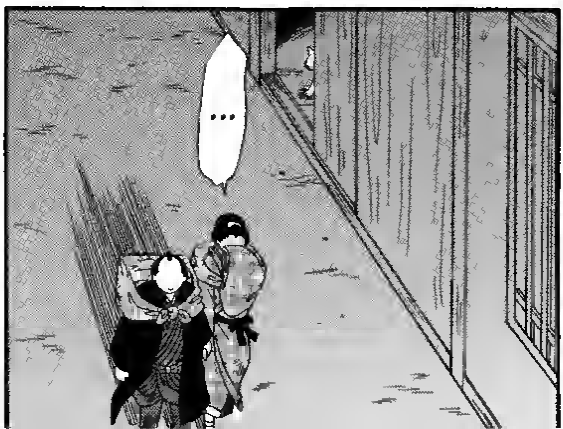
猫絵十兵衛
御伽草紙
ねこえじゅうべえおとぎそうし
TALES OF A CAT PAINTER
THE WAITING CAT

SLAM
CLICK

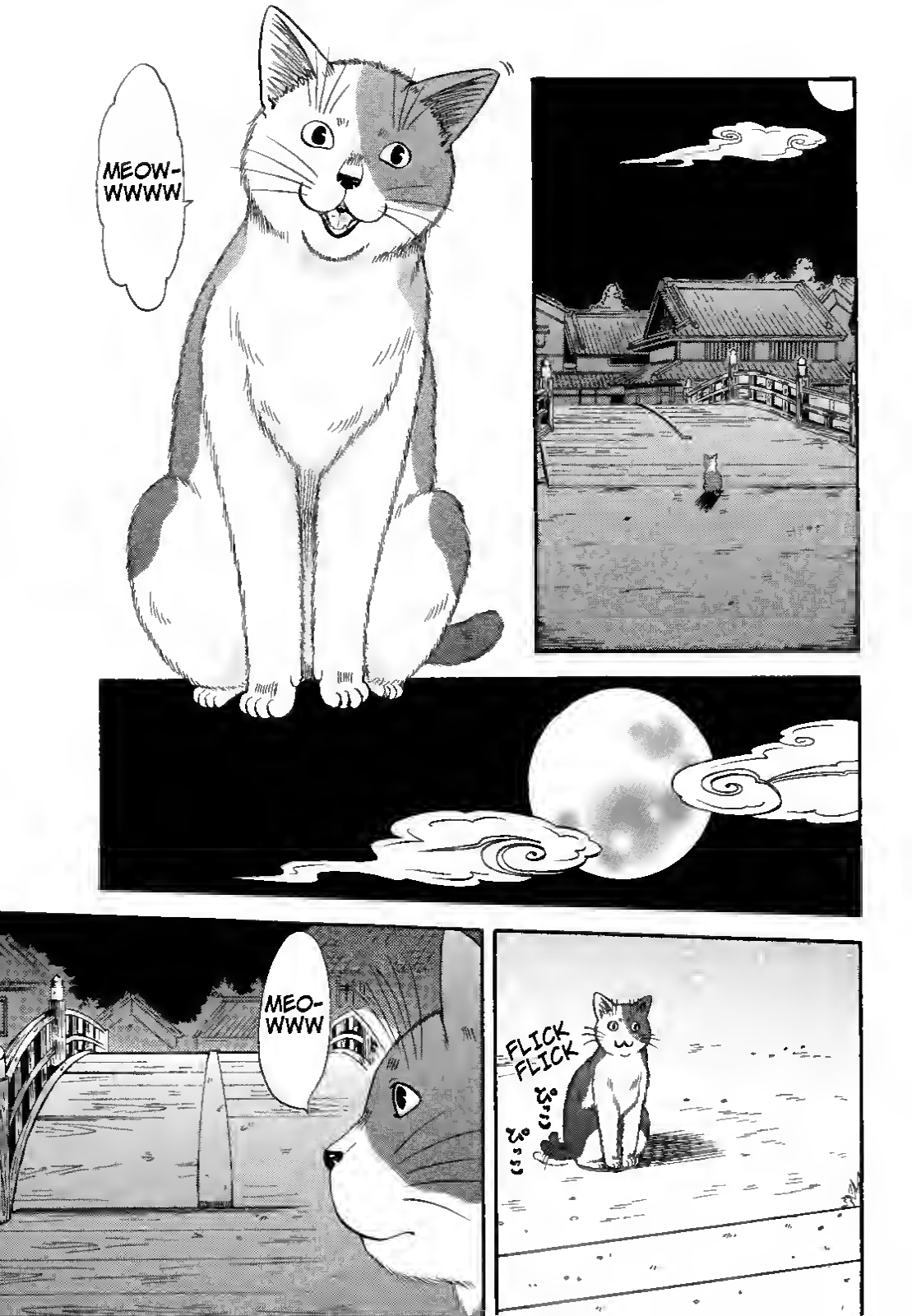

BUT...
NO...

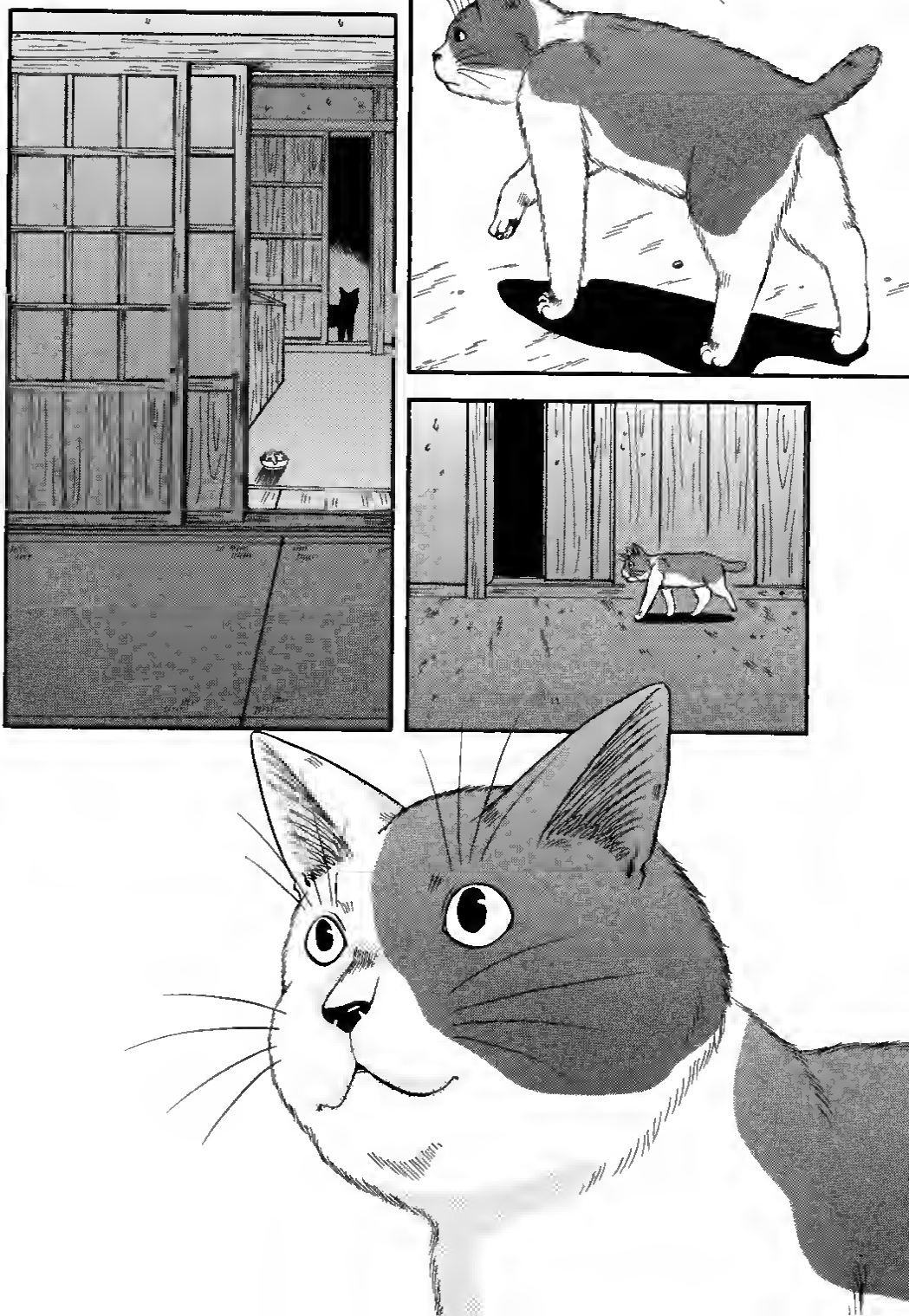

MEOWW
BUT ...
STOP LAGG-ING BEHIND.


EVEN SO, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO...
AT LEAST LITTLE TAMA ...


...

MEOWW
TAP
TAP
TAP
たたたっ
MEO-
WW
MEOWW
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP


MEOW-
WWWW
MEO-
WWW
FLICK
FLICK
ぷっ
ぷっ

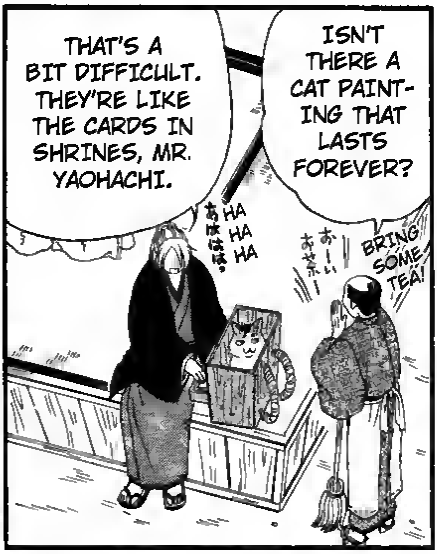


MEOW
MEOW
MEOW
MEOW
♡
ANYBODY NEED A CAT PAINT-ING!
♪
LET ME DRAW YOU A CAT PAINT-ING! ♪

WHAM
THUMP
DRIVE YOUR MICE AWAY WITH MY CAT PAINTING! ♪
OKAY ...
THE BOTTOM! GRAB THE BOT-TOM!!

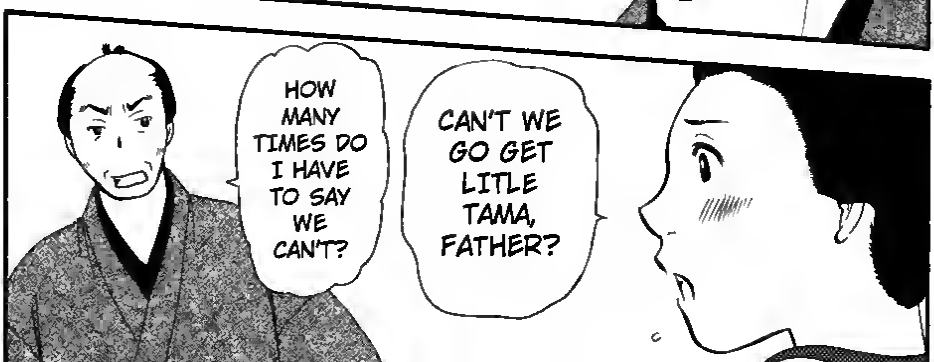
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO LOAD UP THAT LUGGAGE.
GOT IT.
HEY MR. CAT PAINTER!
I'LL TAKE TWO CAT PAINTINGS, PLEASE.

SIGN: CHILI PEPPERS

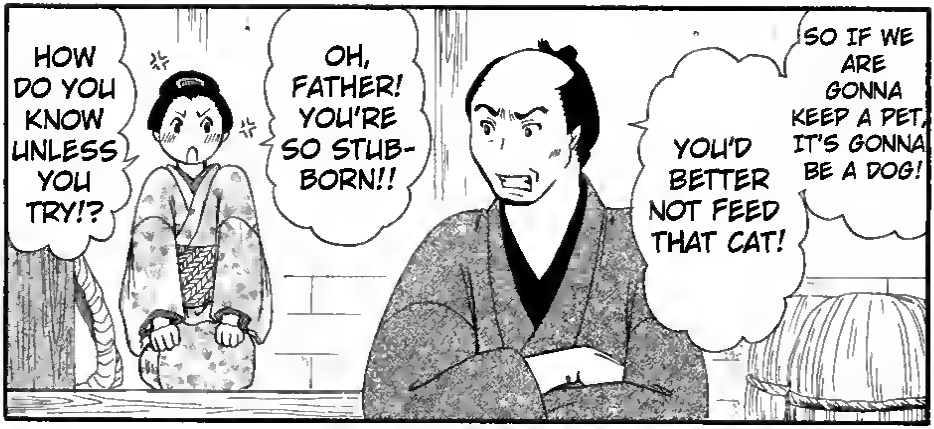

ISN'T THERE A CAT PAINTING THAT LASTS FOREVER?
THAT'S A BIT DIFFICULT. THEY'RE LIKE THE CARDS IN SHRINES, MR. YAOHACHI.
HA HA HA
BRING SOME TEA!

THEY LEFT THEIR PET CAT, TAMA, BEHIND. NO ONE KNOWS WHERE THEY ARE!
IT WAS KNOWN IN THE NEI-BORHOOD THAT THEY REALLY LOOKED AFTER THAT CAT.
WAS THE CAT JUST IN THE EMPTY HOUSE?
YES.
HMPH.

SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING PEOPLE WHO RUN FROM THEIR CREDIT-ORS IN THE NIGHT WOULD DO.

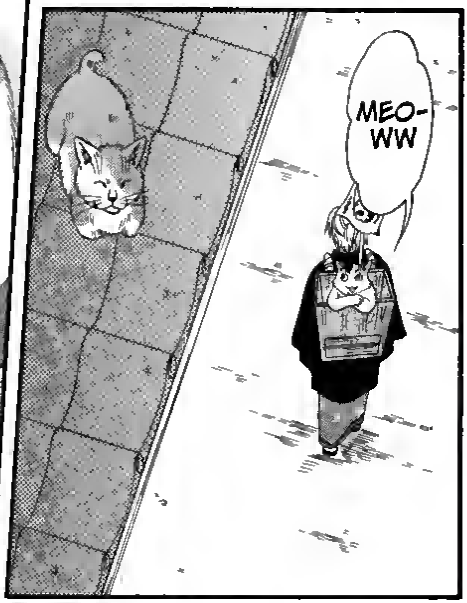

CAN'T WE GO GET LITLE TAMA, FATHER?
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY WE CAN'T?

I WOULDN'T SAY THAT, BUT...
DO YOU NOT LIKE CATS, SIR?
CHUCKLE
BUT WE'RE A GREEN-GROCERS, THAT'S FINE ISN'T IT?!
WE HANDLE FOOD AROUND HERE! HOW COULD WE RAISE A CAT?
HMPH!
THEY'RE KIND OF SPOOKY AREN'T THEY?
HUH.
WRIGG-LING AROUND LIKE THEY DON'T HAVE ANY BONES OR SOME-THING.
CAT'S EYES CHANGE SIZES IN THE DAY AND AT NIGHT.
THEY HARDLY HAVE ANY EXPRESSIONS AND YOU CAN'T TELL WHAT THEY'RE THINKING.
...

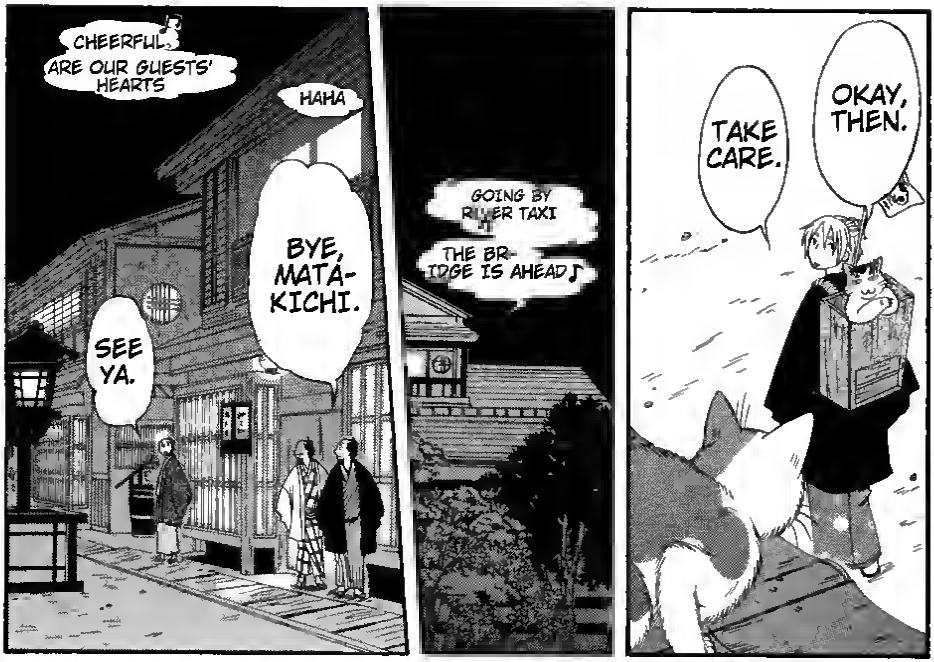

HOW DO YOU KNOW UNLESS YOU TRY!?
OH, FATHER! YOU'RE SO STUB-BORN!!
YOU'D BETTER NOT FEED THAT CAT!
SO IF WE ARE GONNA KEEP A PET, IT'S GONNA BE A DOG!

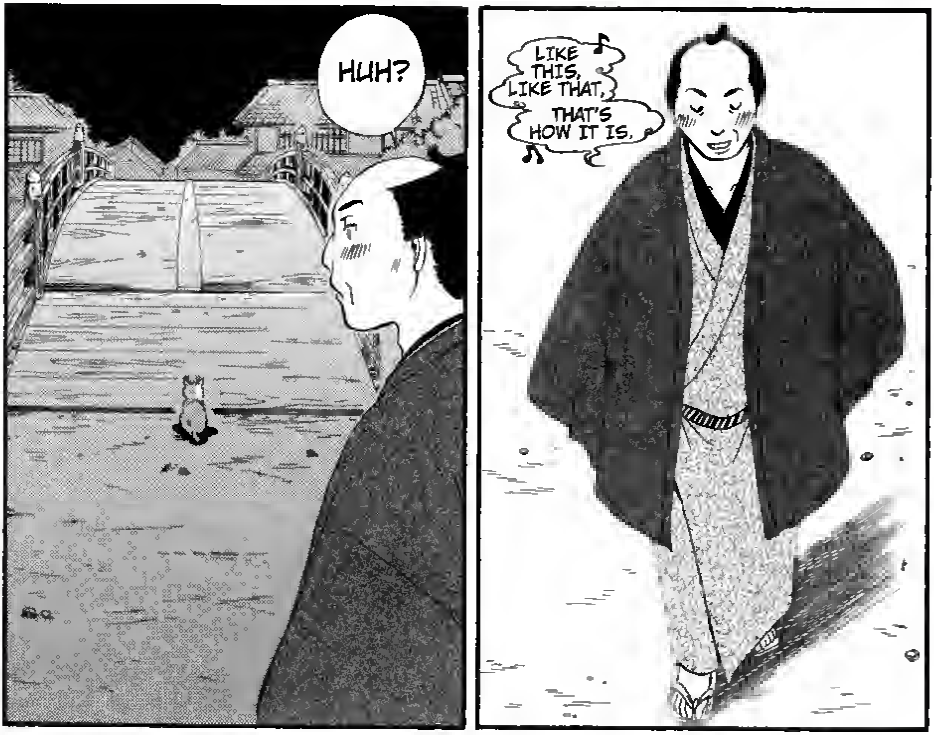
MEOW

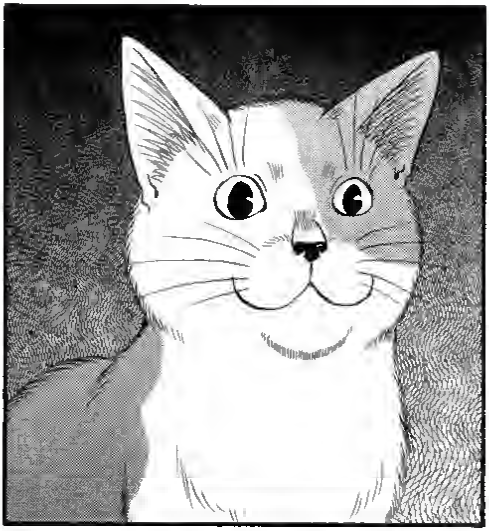
HAHAHA... はは...
YOU'RE THE ONE BEING SELF-ISH!!
WHAT ??!
WELL, THEN! THANK YOU FOR THE TEA!

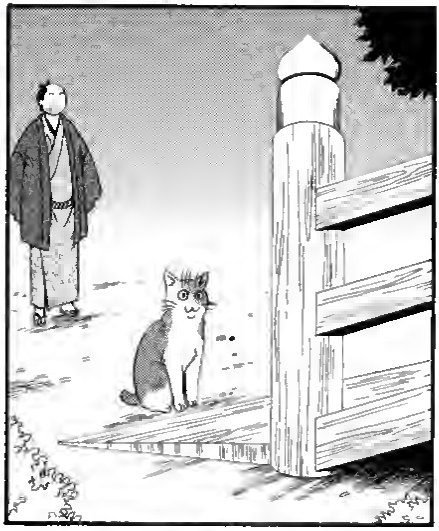

MEO-WW

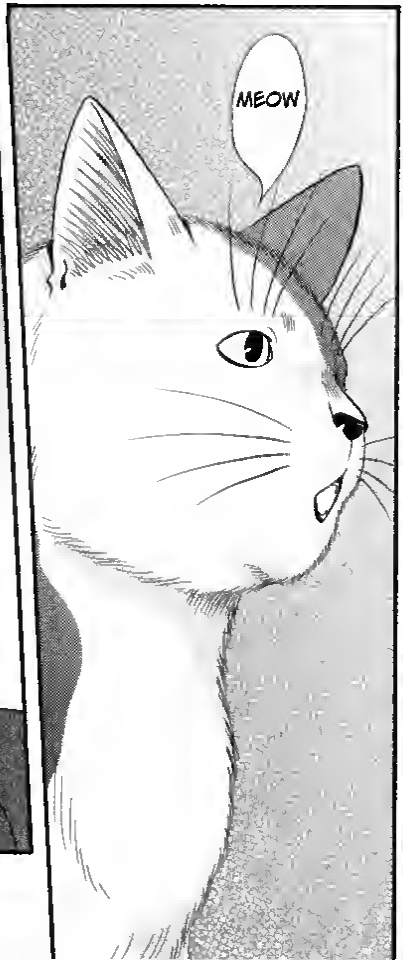
HEY, TAMA.
DO YOU WANT TO GO TO CAT STREET?


CHEERFUL ARE OUR GUESTS' HEARTS
HAHA
BYE, MATA-KICHI.
SEE YA.
GOING BY RIVER TAXI
THE BRIDGE IS AHEAD♪
OKAY, THEN.
TAKE CARE.


HUH?
LIKE THIS, LIKE THAT, THAT'S HOW IT IS,

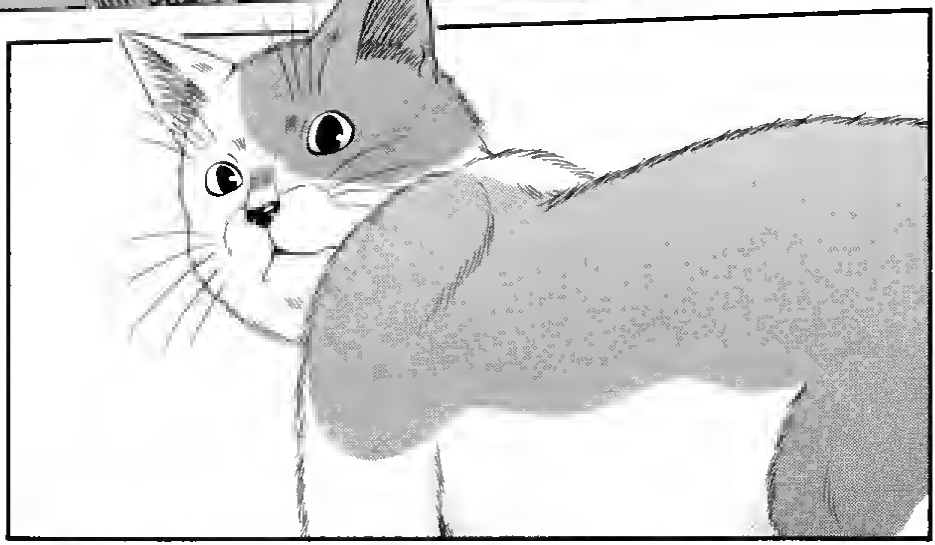


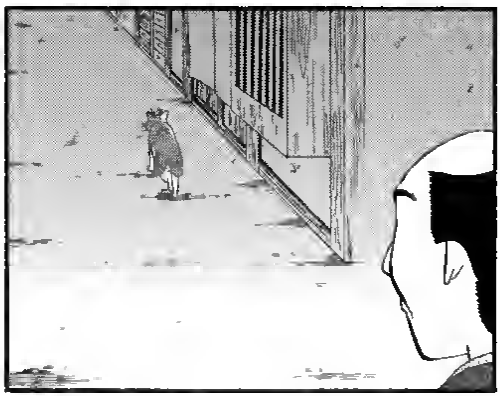


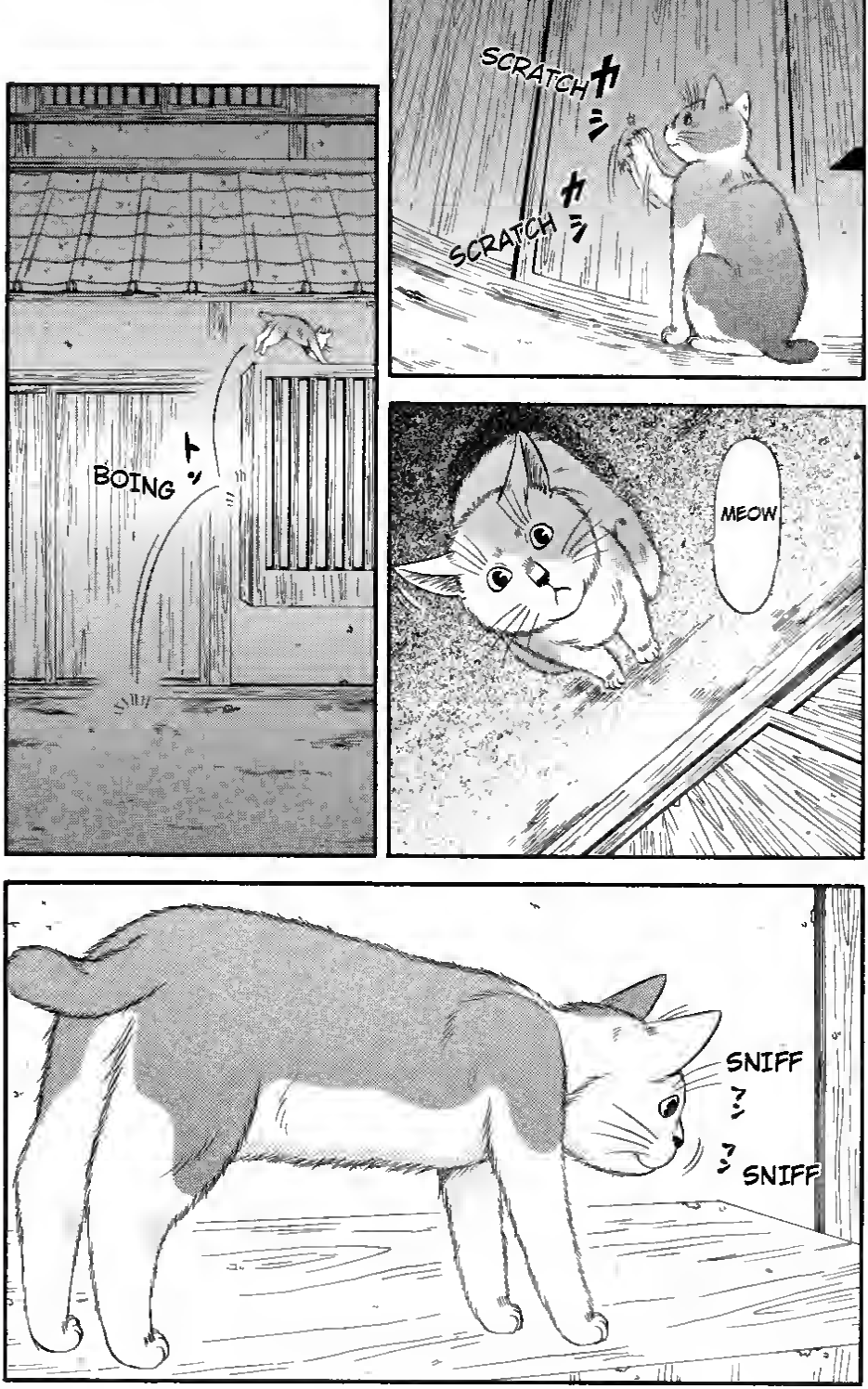

MEOW

THOSE TWO ARE NOT COMING BACK TO THE BOUTIQUE ...

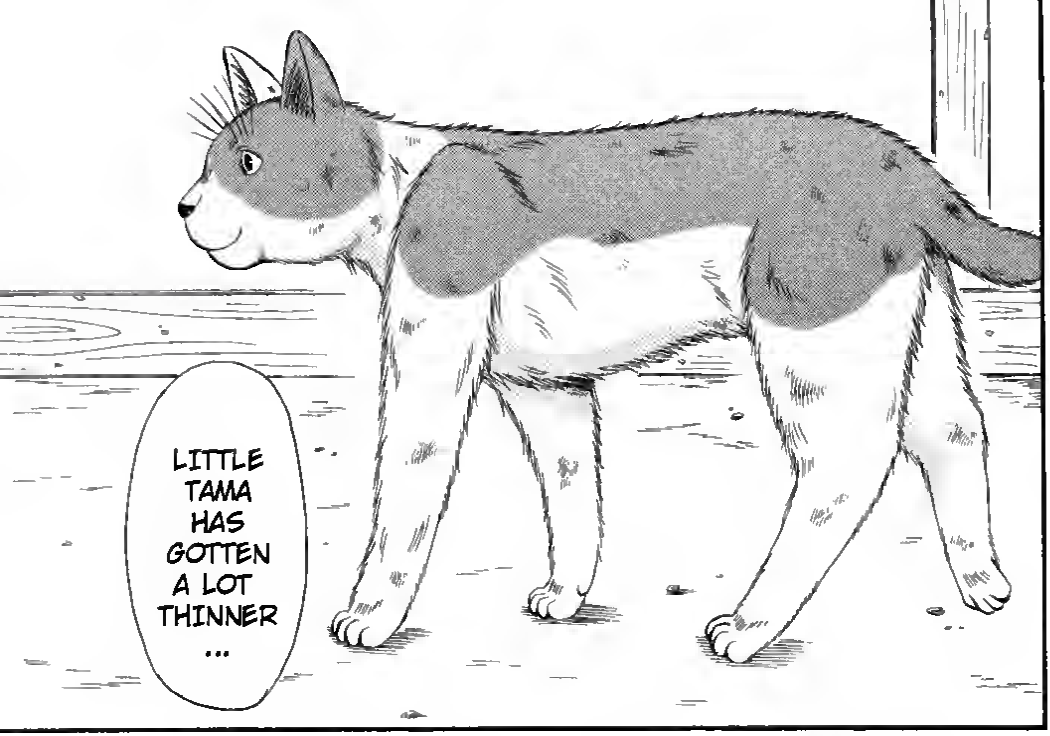
ARE YOU DUMB?

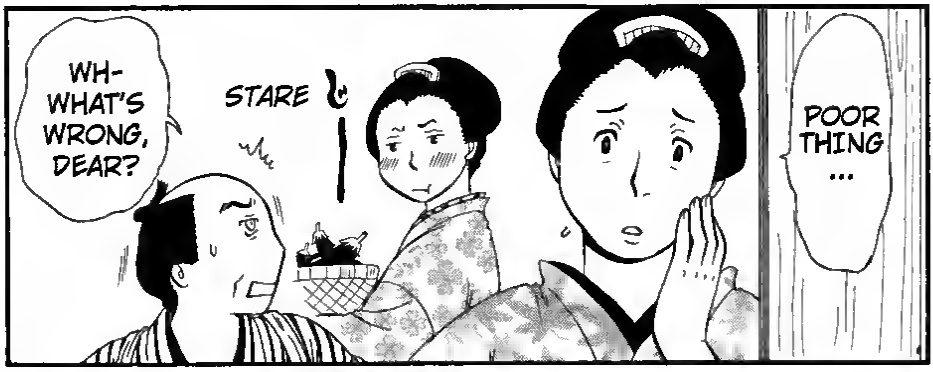




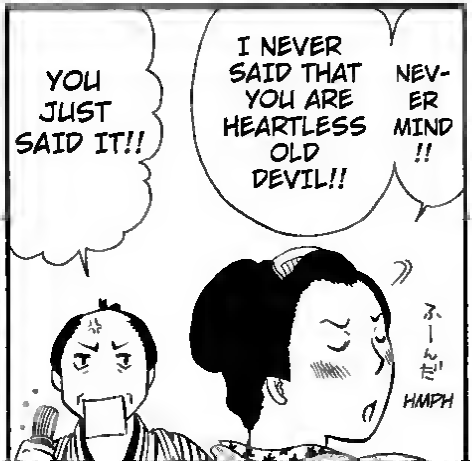

SCRATCH カシ
SCRATCH カシ
BOING トン
MEOW
SNIFF ??
SNIFF

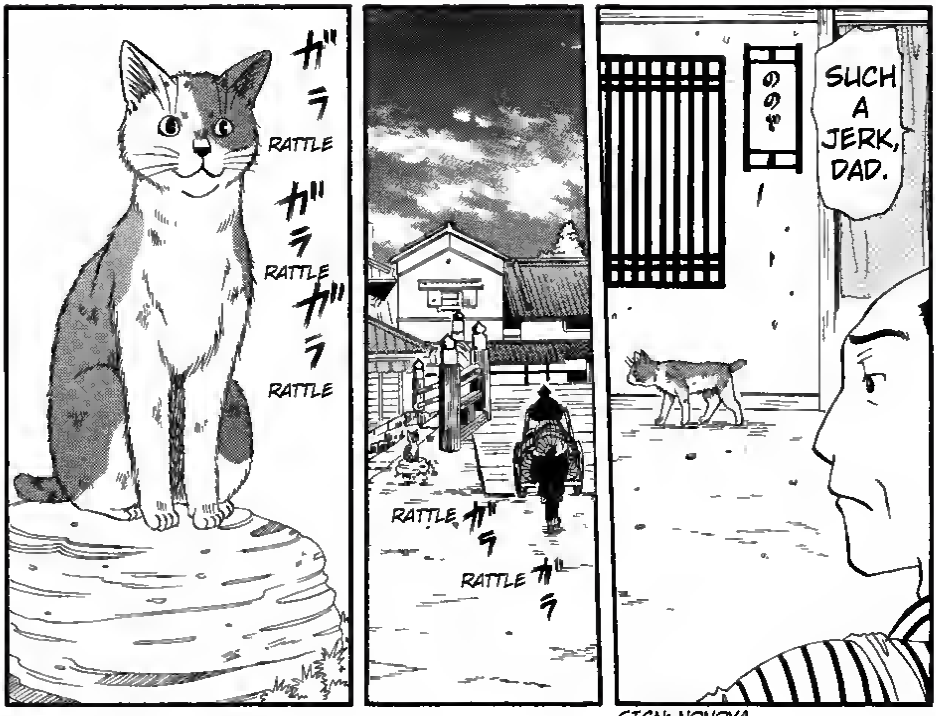
SLIDE
THE MORN-INGS AND THE NIGHTS HAVE GO-TTEN SO COLD ...
YOU REALLY ARE DUMB...
AH, LITTLE TAMA!
HMPH.


LITTLE TAMA HAS GOTTEN A LOT THINNER ...


WH-WHAT'S WRONG, DEAR?
STARE
POOR THING ...

STOP IT, YOU TWO!
YOU HOT-HEAD!
YOU'RE JUST AS MAD AS ME !!

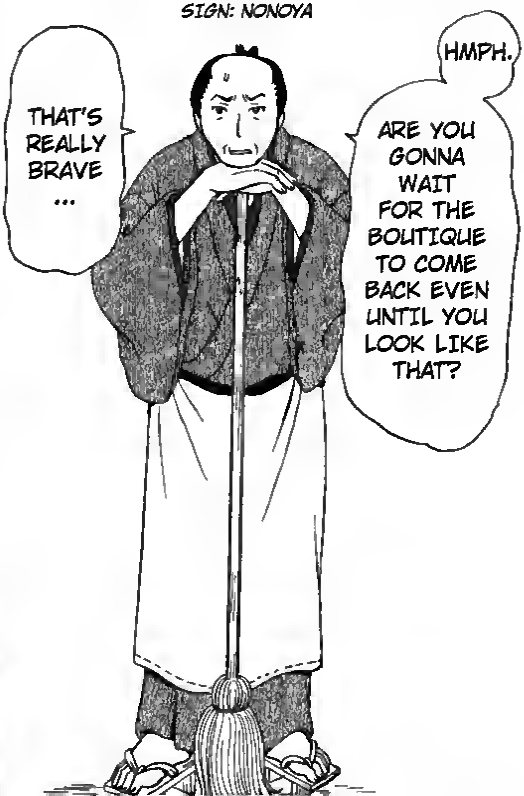

YOU JUST SAID IT!!
I NEVER SAID THAT YOU ARE HEARTLESS OLD DEVIL!!
NEV-ER MIND !!
ふーんだ HMPH

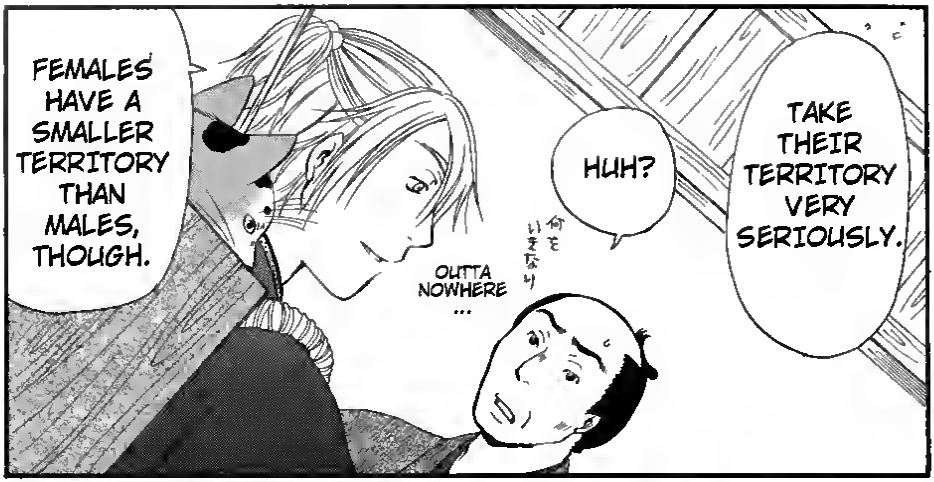

ガラ
RATTLE
ガラ
RATTLE
ガラ
RATTLE
RATTLE
ガラ
RATTLE
ガラ
ののや
SUCH A JERK, DAD.

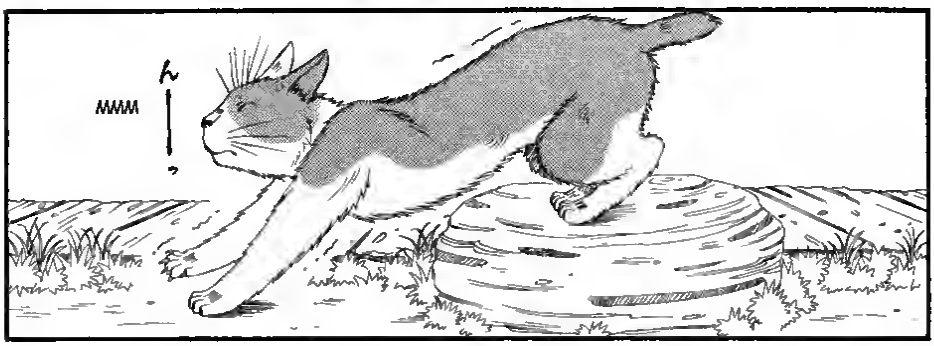
SIGN: NONOYA

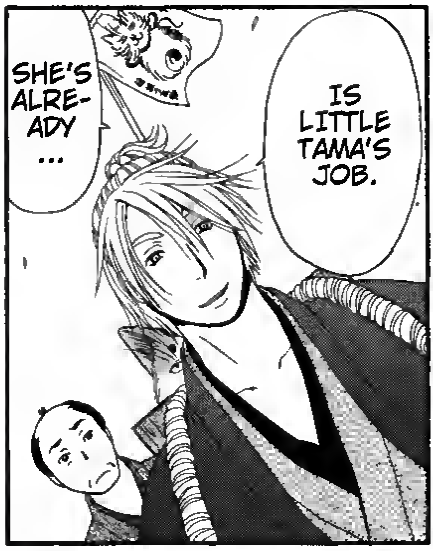
びくっ SURPRISE
IS THERE SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND, MR. MATAKICHI?

CATS ...
HEH HEH
くっくっくっ
脅かすなよっ
DON'T SCARE ME.
CAT PAIN-TER ...


THAT'S REALLY BRAVE ...
HMPH.
ARE YOU GONNA WAIT FOR THE BOUTIQUE TO COME BACK EVEN UNTIL YOU LOOK LIKE THAT?


FEMALES HAVE A SMALLER TERRITORY THAN MALES, THOUGH.
HUH?
何をいまさら
OUTTA NOWHERE ...
TAKE THEIR TERRITORY VERY SERIOUSLY.


MMM
ん!?


SHE'S ALRE-ADY ...
IS LITTLE TAMA'S JOB.

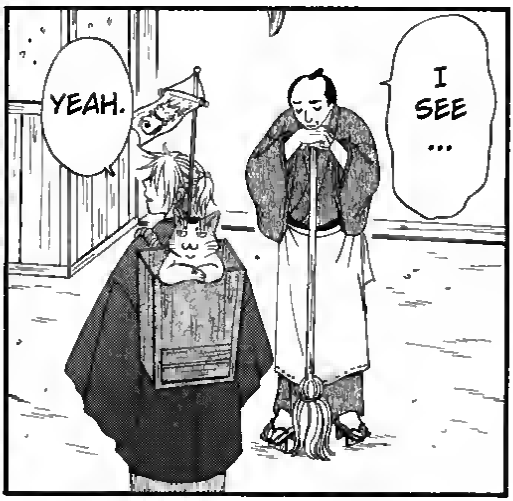
PATR-OLLING AROUND HER TERRIT-ORY...
LIKE THAT EVERY DAY ...

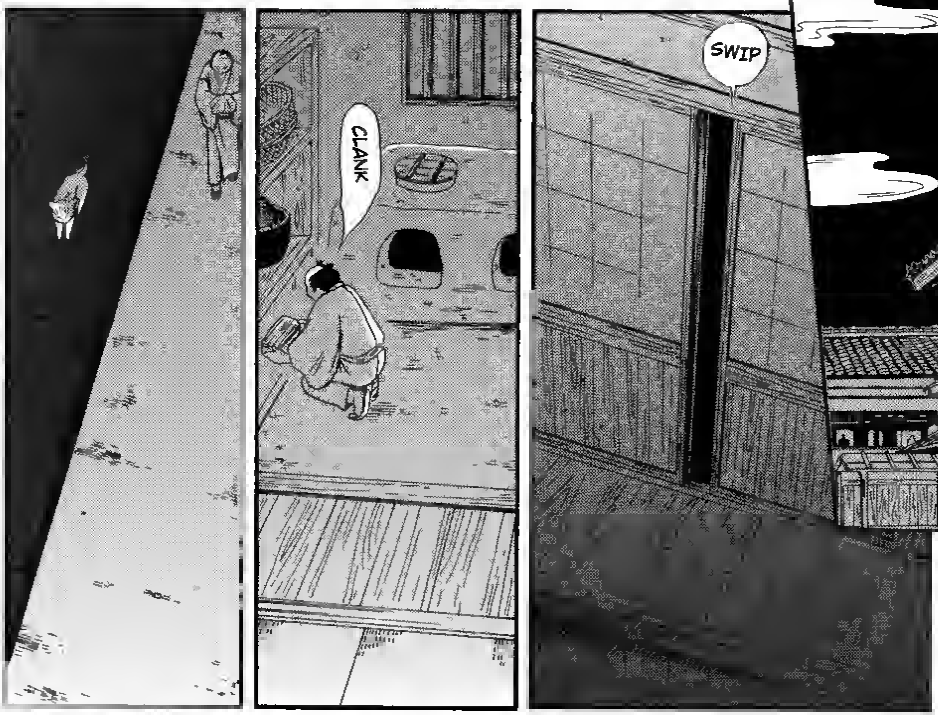
SHE'S NOTICED THAT THE BOU-TIQUE ...
ISN'T COMING BACK.

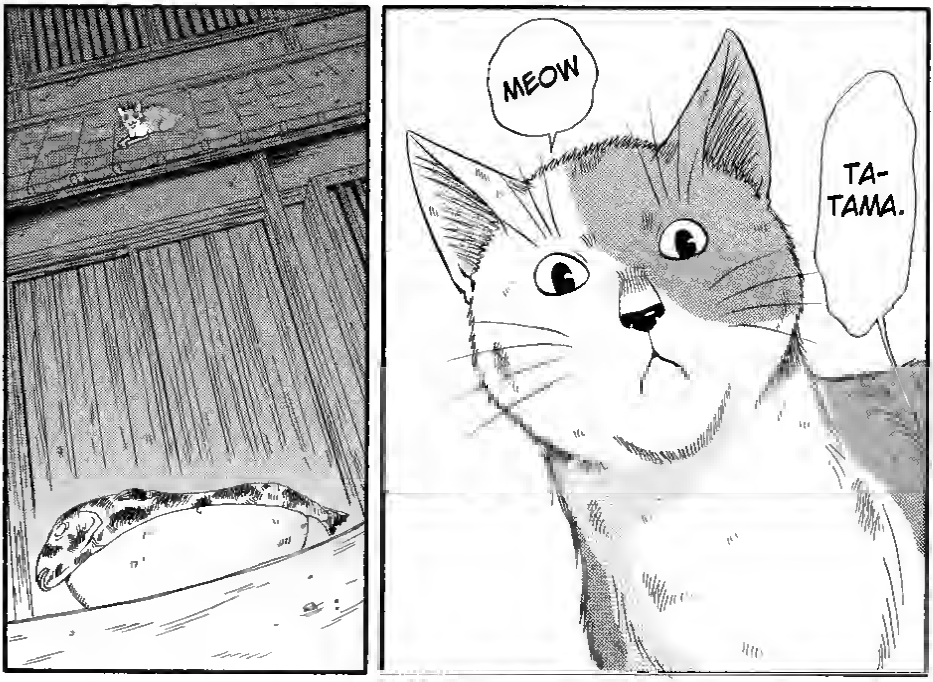
FLIT
BUT FOR LITTLE TAMA, THAT HOUSE WAS...
BUT ...

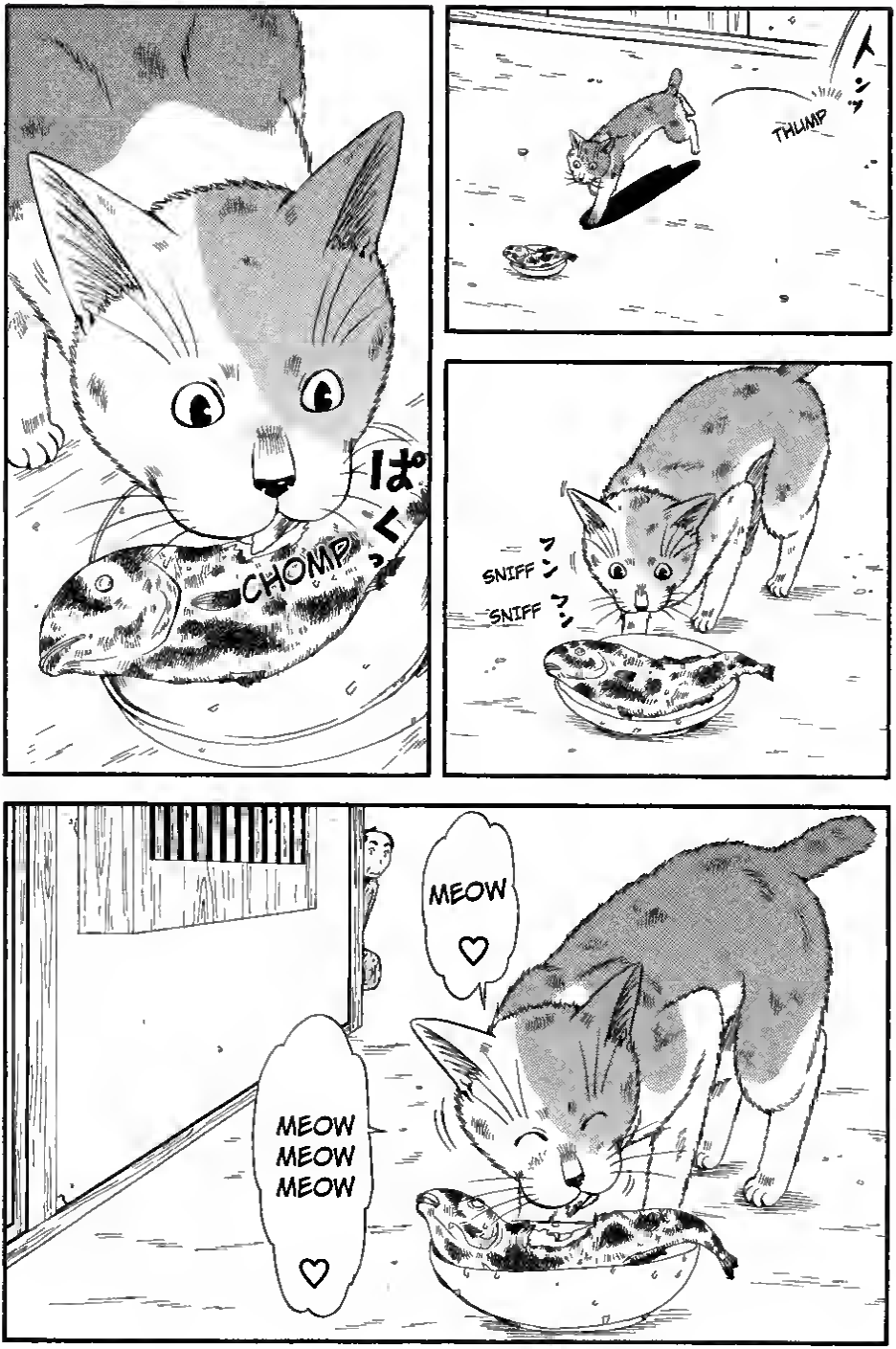
WAS WHERE SHE FELT SHE BELONGED, SO SHE STILL PROTECTS IT.

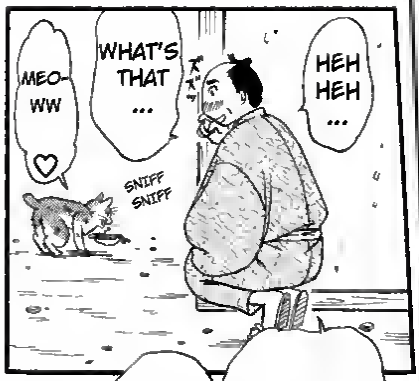
IS THAT RIGHT ...
TOFU...
TOFU...

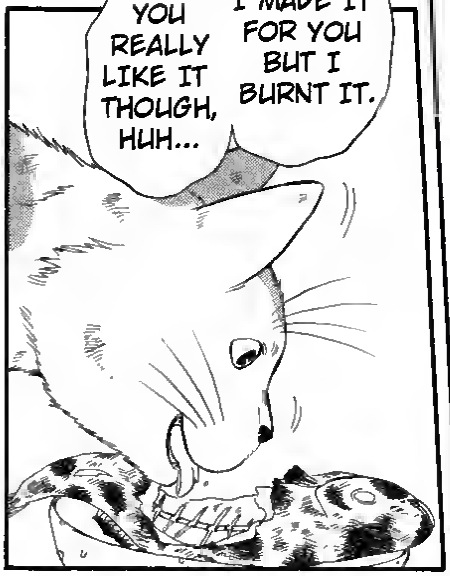

YEAH.
I SEE ...


CLANK
SWIP

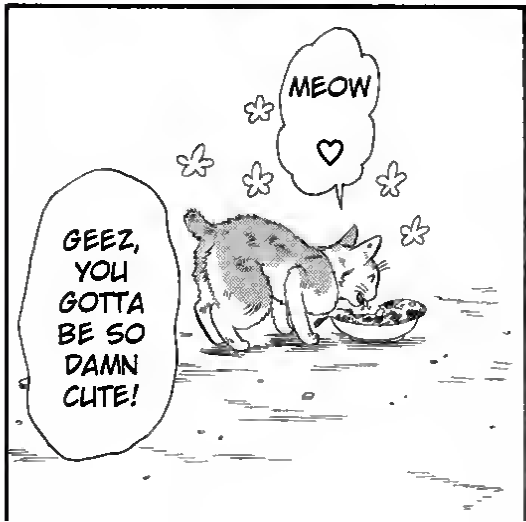

MEOW
TA-
TAMA.


トン
THUMP
ぱくっ
CHOMP
フン
SNIFF
フン
SNIFF
MEOW
♡
MEOW
MEOW
MEOW
♡


MEO-
WW
WHAT'S
THAT
...
HEH
HEH
...
SNIFF
SNIFF

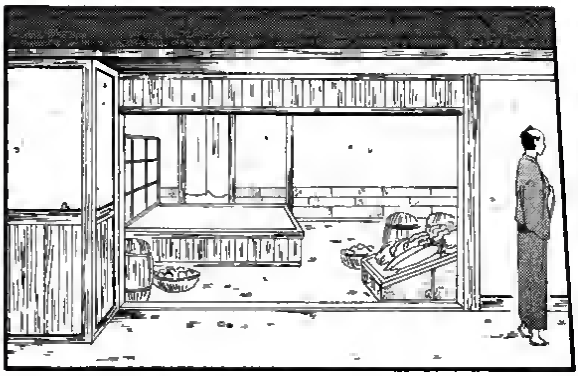

YOU
REALLY
LIKE IT
THOUGH,
HUH...
I MADE IT
FOR YOU
BUT I
BURNT IT.

MEOW


MEOW
GEEZ,
YOU
GOTTA
BE SO
DAMN
CUTE!

CATS
AREN'T
AS EXPRE-
SSIONLESS
AS I
THOUGHT
...

SHAKE
ぶん
SHAKE
ぶん
CATS AREN'T CUTE!
NO, NO... SHE'S NOT CUTE!
はっ
HUH?
MAN, I'M GOING NUTS!
CLACK
LET'S JUST ADD SOME FLAVOR AND USE IT AS A SNACK WITH A DRINK.
WE WON'T NEED NEW FOOD.
猫用に 薄味にした ほうがな～
I MADE THE FLAVOR LIGHT, LIKE CATS LIKE IT.

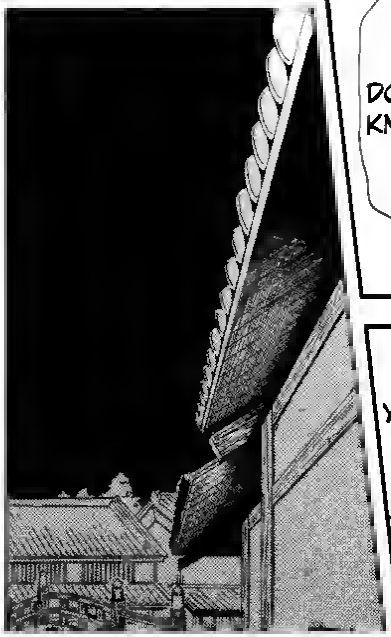


DEAR... DEAR?

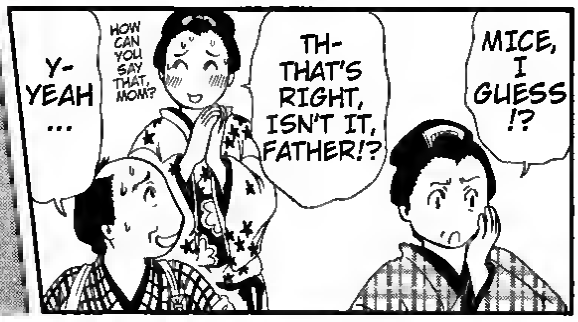
THAT'S A GOOD WAY TO DO IT ...
にょほほほ NYO HO HO HO

THIS IS ODD. EVEN THE SARDINES I BOUGHT RECENTLY HAVE GONE... MUST BE MICE!!
猫絵札 効いてないのかねぇ
I GUESS THE CAT PAINTING ISN'T WORKING...
!?
YEAH! MICE! THAT'S IT!!

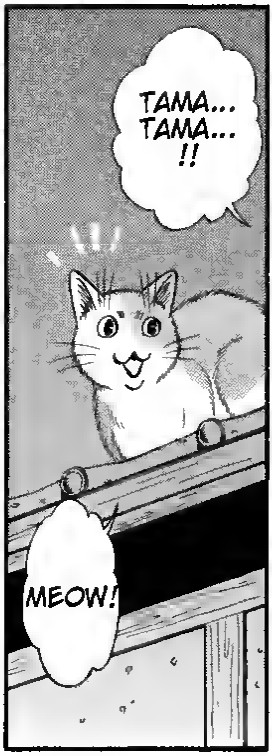
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE LEFT OVER COLD RICE FROM YESTERDAY WENT?
N- NO! I DON'T!
I THOUGHT I'D MAKE A GRUEL
ドッキ STARTLE



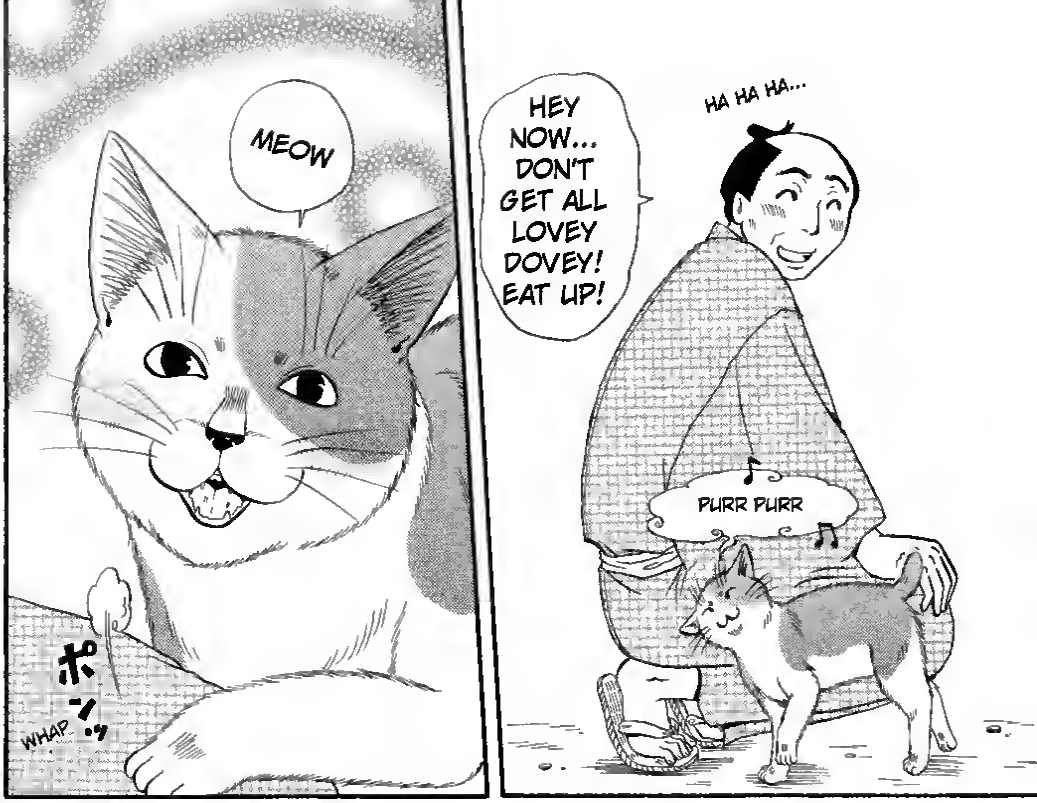
I DON'T KNOW !!
I-...
DO YOU? OKATSU ?

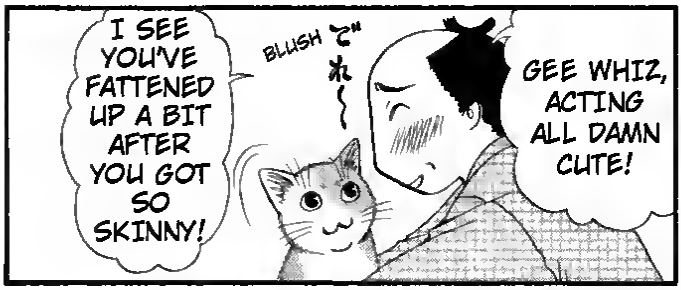

Y-YEAH ...
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT, MOM?
TH-THAT'S RIGHT, ISN'T IT, FATHER!?
MICE, I GUESS !?

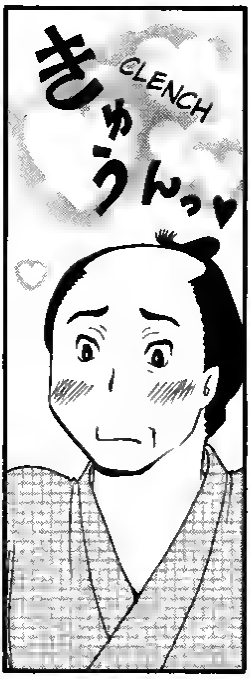
SORRY I'M A LITTLE LATE TONIGHT!
MEO-WWW


TAMA... TAMA... !!
MEOW!

SWOOSH
きょう
きょう
SWOOSH

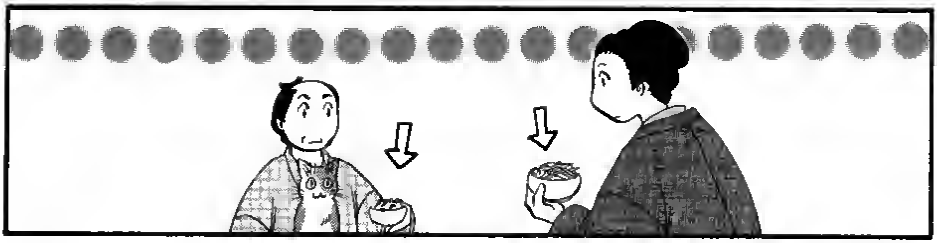

MEOW
ポン!
WHAP
HEY NOW... DON'T GET ALL LOVEY DOVEY! EAT UP!
HA HA HA...
PURR PURR

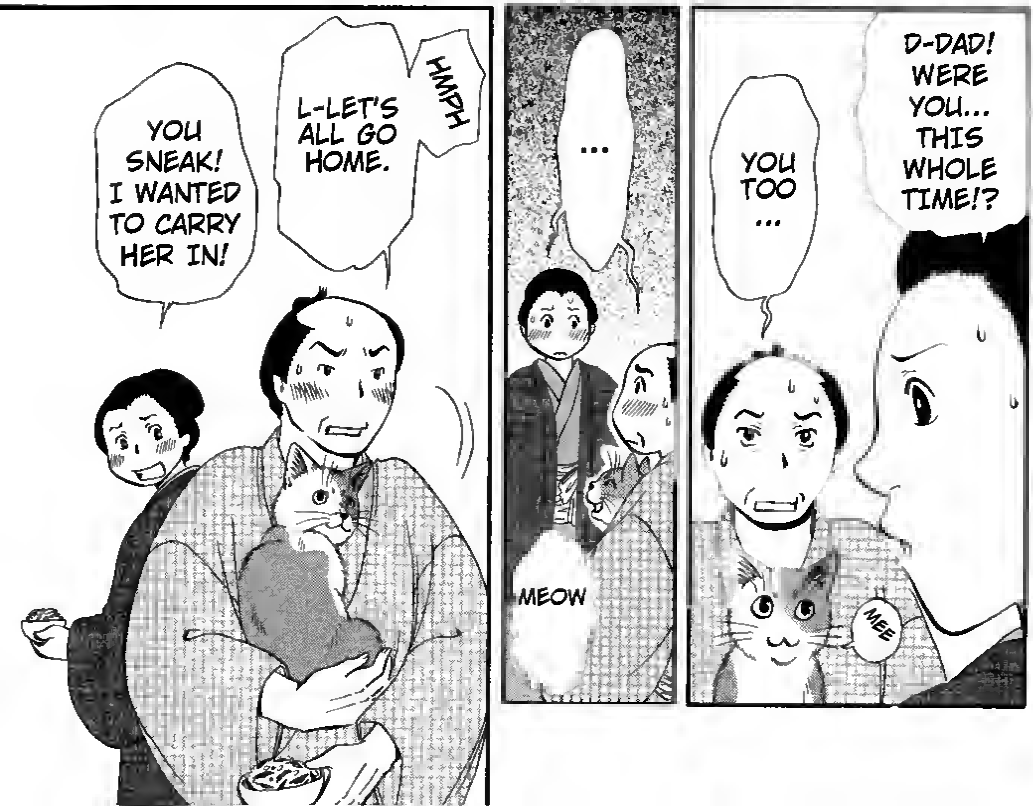

I SEE YOU'VE FATTENED UP A BIT AFTER YOU GOT SO SKINNY!
BLUSH でれ～
GEE WHIZ, ACTING ALL DAMN CUTE!


CLENCH
きゅうんっ♥

AWWWW...
BLUSH でれ
BLUSH でれ
CATS REALLY ARE CUTER WHEN THEY'RE FAT.
SCRATCH SCRATCH
こちょ
こちょ
PURR

OKATSU!
D-DAD! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?




D-DAD! WERE YOU... THIS WHOLE TIME!?
YOU TOO...
MEE
...
MEOW
HMPH
L-LET'S ALL GO HOME.
YOU SNEAK! I WANTED TO CARRY HER IN!

I JUST SAID THEY'RE SPOOKY, I DON'T HATE THEM!
HA! YOUR FACE IS SO RED, FATHER!
MEOW
AND YOU SAID CATS WERE SPOOKY ...
SH-SHUU USH
LOOKS LIKE THE GROCERS GOT ANOTHER MASCOT GIRL!
とうが?し
今日は良い大根が入ってるぜー
WE'VE GOT SOME NICE RADISHES TODAY!
JUBEI, TAKE A LOOK!

SIGN: CHILI PEPPERS

第二十話 完

END OF CHAPTER 20

猫絵十兵衛

ねこえじゅうべえおときそうし

TALES OF A CAT PAINTER

化け猫騒動の巻

CAT MONSTER UPROAR

A CAT?
URK!
MEOOOOW!
MEOOOOW!
RUSTLE
MEOW!
HMM ?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
I'VE GOT SOME DRIED FISH!
SHAKE
DRIED FISH
COME ON OVER HERE ...

PAH!
WH ...!
WHOOSH!
MRAOOOOW!!
AAARGH!

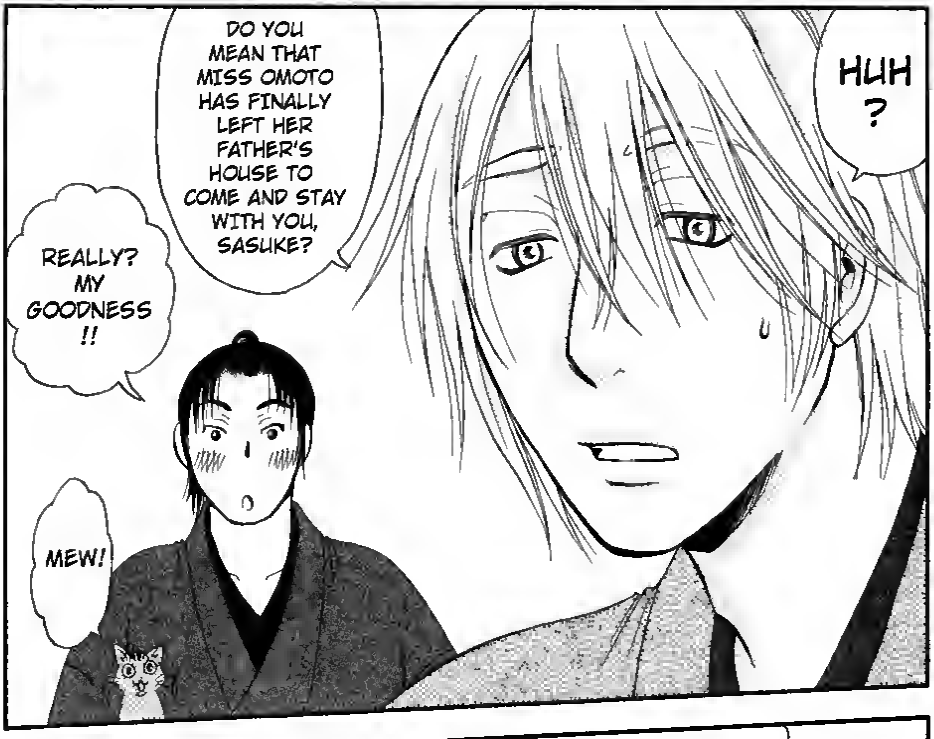
MRAOOOW!
FWOOOSH!!
ぶわっ
NYA HA HA HA !!
ARGH!
MRAOW!

おごそん
SIGN: CAT PICTURES JUDGE!

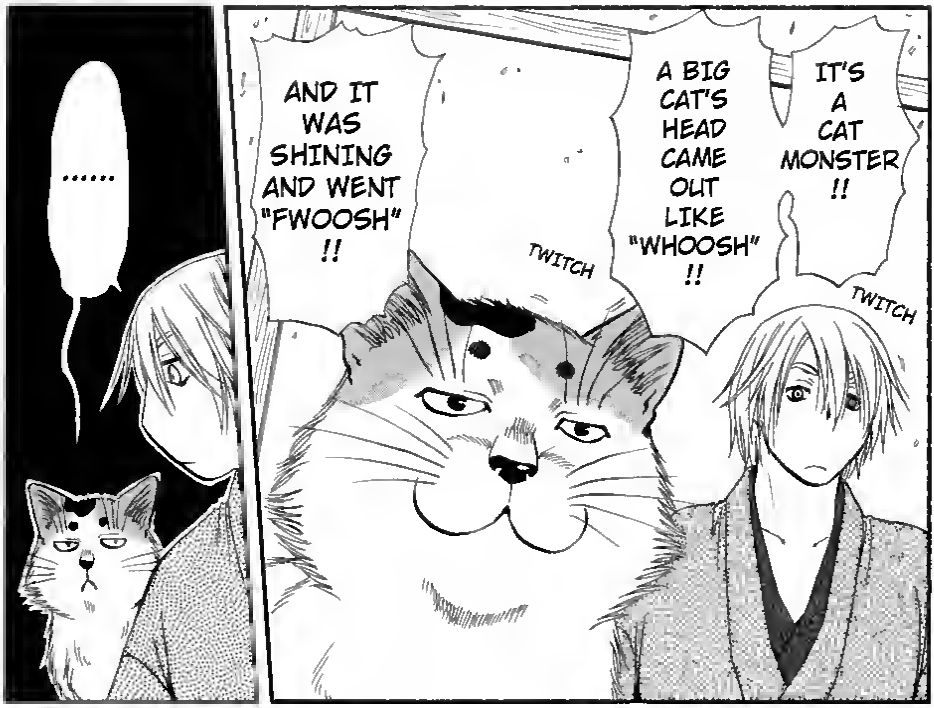
にゃはは
NYA HA HA HA!

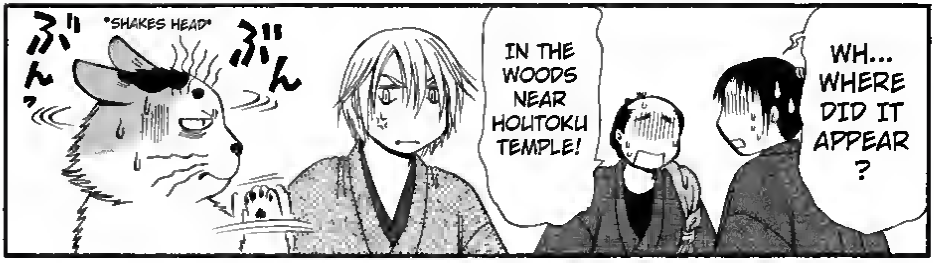
IT'S A CAT MONSTER !!
NYA HAHA HA!

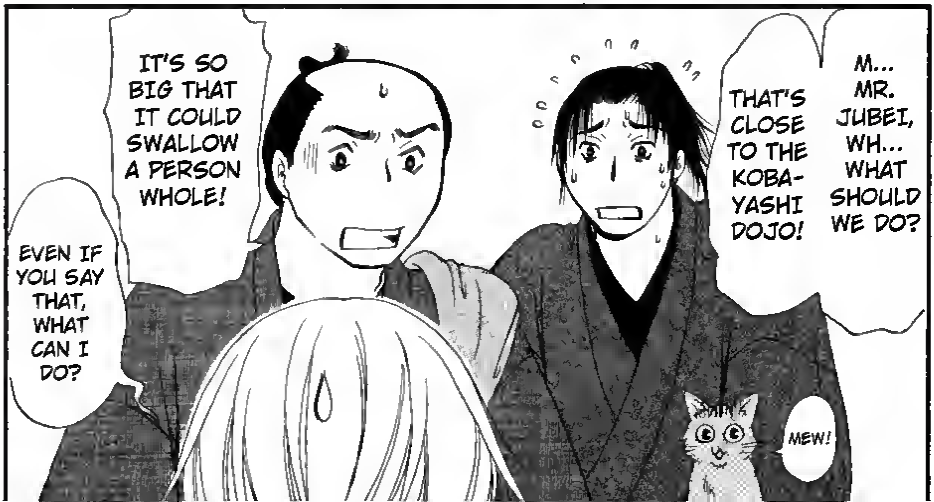
ばしん
BAM!
IT CAME OUT!!


HUH ?
DO YOU MEAN THAT MISS OMOTO HAS FINALLY LEFT HER FATHER'S HOUSE TO COME AND STAY WITH YOU, SASUKE?
REALLY? MY GOODNESS !!
MEW!

WHA...! AH! NO, THAT'S NOT IT!
IT'S A CAT! A CAT!
IN THAT CASE, THERE ARE LOTS OF THEM ON THIS STREET.
NO, I DON'T MEAN THAT!
YEAH...

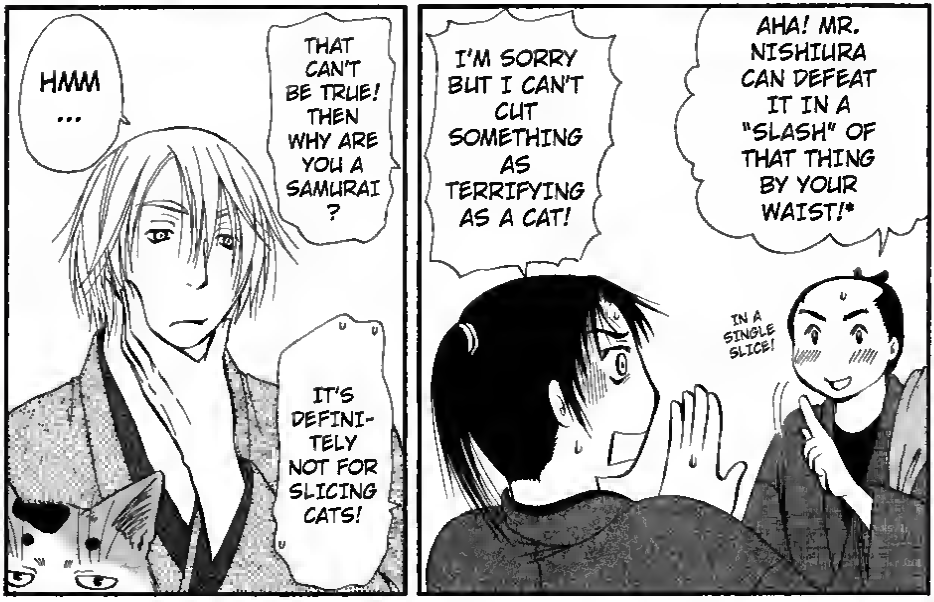

.....
AND IT WAS SHINING AND WENT "FWOOSH" !!
TWITCH
A BIG CAT'S HEAD CAME OUT LIKE "WHOOSH" !!
IT'S A CAT MONSTER !!
TWITCH


SHAKES HEAD
ぶん
ぶん
IN THE WOODS NEAR HOUTOKU TEMPLE!
WH... WHERE DID IT APPEAR ?


IT'S SO BIG THAT IT COULD SWALLOW A PERSON WHOLE!
EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT, WHAT CAN I DO?
THAT'S CLOSE TO THE KOBA-YASHI DOJO!
M... MR. JUBEI, WH... WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
MEW!

ARE YOU SURE YOU WEREN'T DRUNK AND IT WAS JUST A LANTERN?
ISN'T IT LIKE THE SAYING "THE GHOST'S TRUE FORM TURNED OUT TO BE DRIED SILVER GRASS"?
I DIDN'T DRINK THAT MUCH!

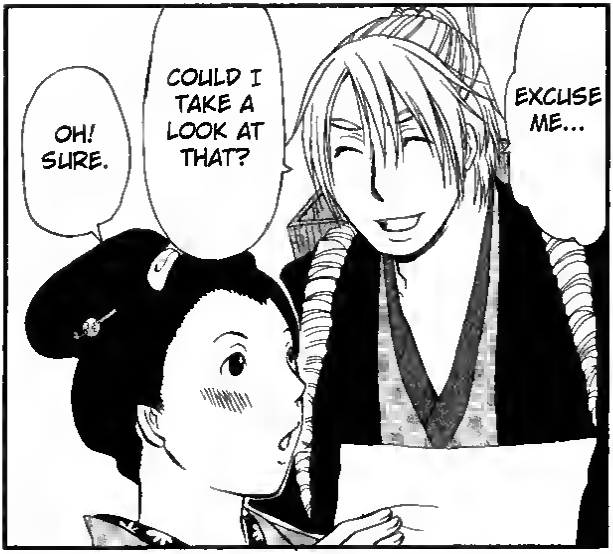
*HE'S TALKING ABOUT YASABUROU'S SWORD


AHA! MR. NISHIURA CAN DEFEAT IT IN A "SLASH" OF THAT THING BY YOUR WAIST!*
I'M SORRY BUT I CAN'T CUT SOMETHING AS TERRIFYING AS A CAT!
IN A SINGLE SLICE!
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE! THEN WHY ARE YOU A SAMURAI ?
HMM ...
IT'S DEFINI-TELY NOT FOR SLICING CATS!

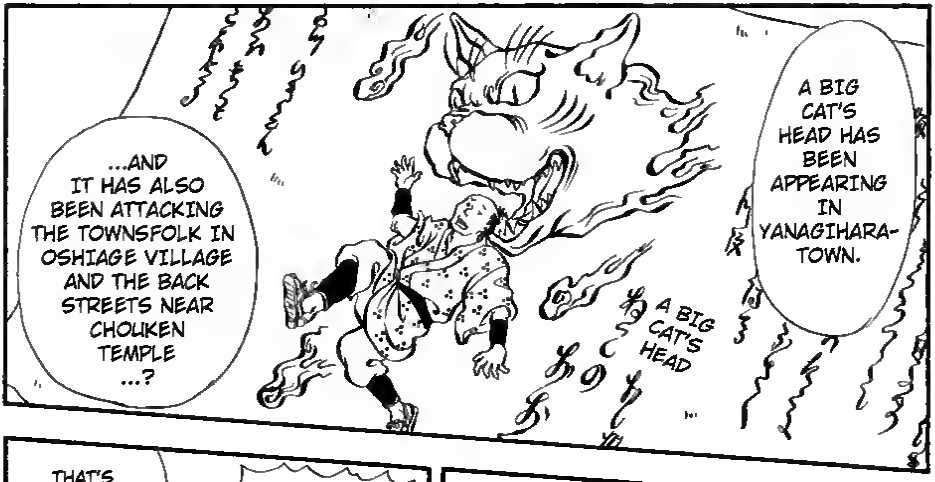
CAT PICTURES TO WARD OFF MICE
MR. NISHIURA, PLEASE, GET A GRIP!
WE'RE GOING TO THE DOJO, RIGHT?
Y... YEAH ...
STAGGER
STAGGER
IF YOU'VE GOT CARDS TO WARD OFF MICE, YOU CAN MAKE CARDS TO WARD OFF CATS, CAN'T YOU?
NOPE... I CAN'T DO THAT!

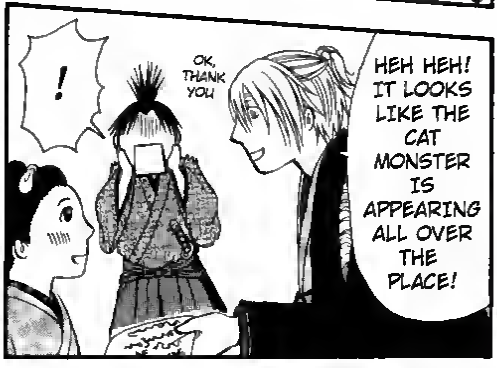
FLINCH
WHAAAT !?
A CAT MONSTER !?

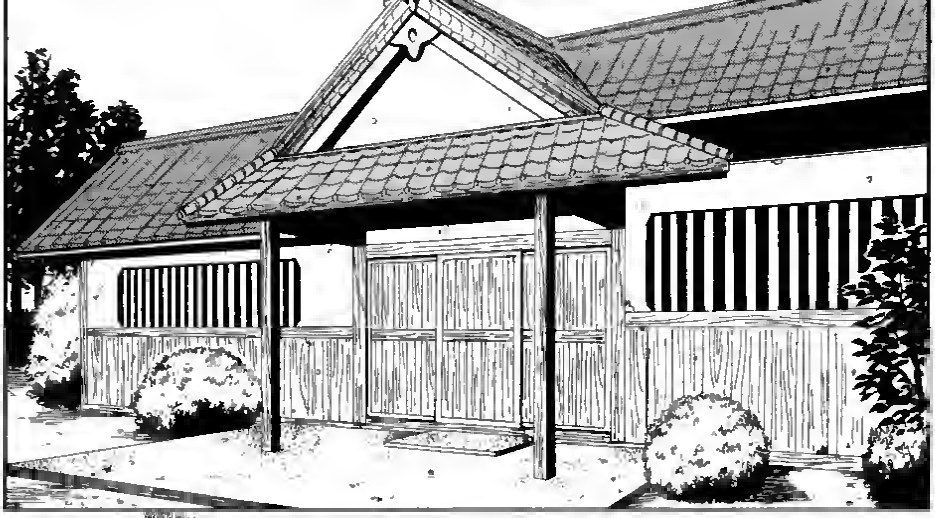
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE CARDS TO MAKE CATS GATHER, THOUGH.
NO... YOU DON'T NEED TO DO THAT...
HOW ABOUT THAT?



*A TYPE OF TILE BLOCK PRINT NEWSPAPER


A BIG CAT'S HEAD HAS BEEN APPEARING IN YANAGIHARA-TOWN.
A BIG CAT'S HEAD
...AND IT HAS ALSO BEEN ATTACKING THE TOWNSFOLK IN OSHIAGE VILLAGE AND THE BACK STREETS NEAR CHOUKEN TEMPLE ...?





WHACK!
HYA!
HANGO-ROU, STRAI-GHTEN YOUR BACK!
WHACK!
STEP FORWARD, MONNO-SUKE!

YAAH!
WHACK!
BUT YASABUROU TURNS INTO A COWARD WHEN UP AGAINST A CAT.
HE'S A PROPER TEACHER.
HMM ...
HE LOOKS QUITE MANLY DOESN'T HE?
WHACK!
SMACK!

THERE'S NO WAY THAT WHAT THEY SAW WAS REAL.
IT COULD BE THE WORK OF A NEKOMATA, OR A SPIRIT THAT HAS CHANGED INTO A CAT.
OR ...
HA HA !!
WELL THEN, NITA, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS DISTURBANCE ?
WELL, EITHER WAY, IT SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE DOING IT FOR THEIR OWN AMUSEMENT.
LIKE YOU USED TO?
SHUT UP!
"PULL"

NO, NO, THANKS TO YOU.
THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF YASA-BUROU.
WELL, WELL! I AM THE MASTER OF THIS DOJO, KOHEI KOBAYASHI.
OH!
ARE YOU MR. JUBEI, BY ANY CHANCE ?
YES.
MEOW!
YOU REALLY DO BRING A BIG CAT WITH YOU.
HE TALKS ABOUT YOU A LOT.
MASTER KOBA-YASHI!
YASA-BUROU IS...
I LIKE CATS TOO.
I THOUGHT I WOULD LIKE TO KEEP ONE TO STOP ME GETTING BORED IN MY OLD AGE BUT...
THE TRUTH IS, ONE OF OUR STUDENTS, ITAROU ...
I WAS TELLING HIM THAT YOU ARE VERY MANLY!
OH, SORRY!
YOU WEREN'T IN THE MAIN BUILDING, SO WE HAVE STARTED PRACTICING.
PLEASE DON'T SAY ANYTHING STRANGE TO MR. JUBEI!

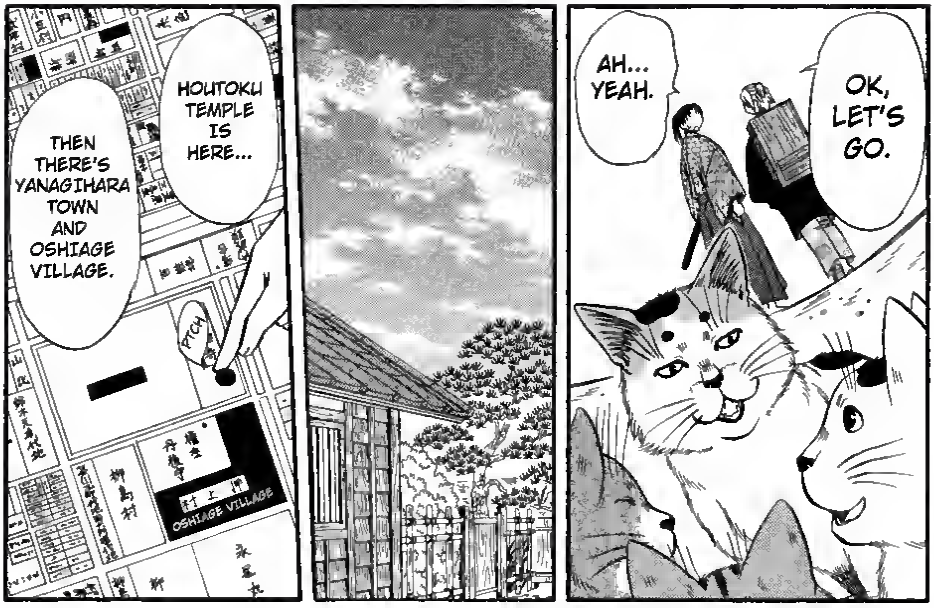
A CAT MONSTER ...
SO ...
YOU TWISTED YOUR ANKLE WHEN YOU WERE RUNNING AWAY?
YES. WHILE I WAS ON AN ERRAND, IT SUDDENLY APPEARED.
I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO TODAY'S PRACTICE!
SNIFF

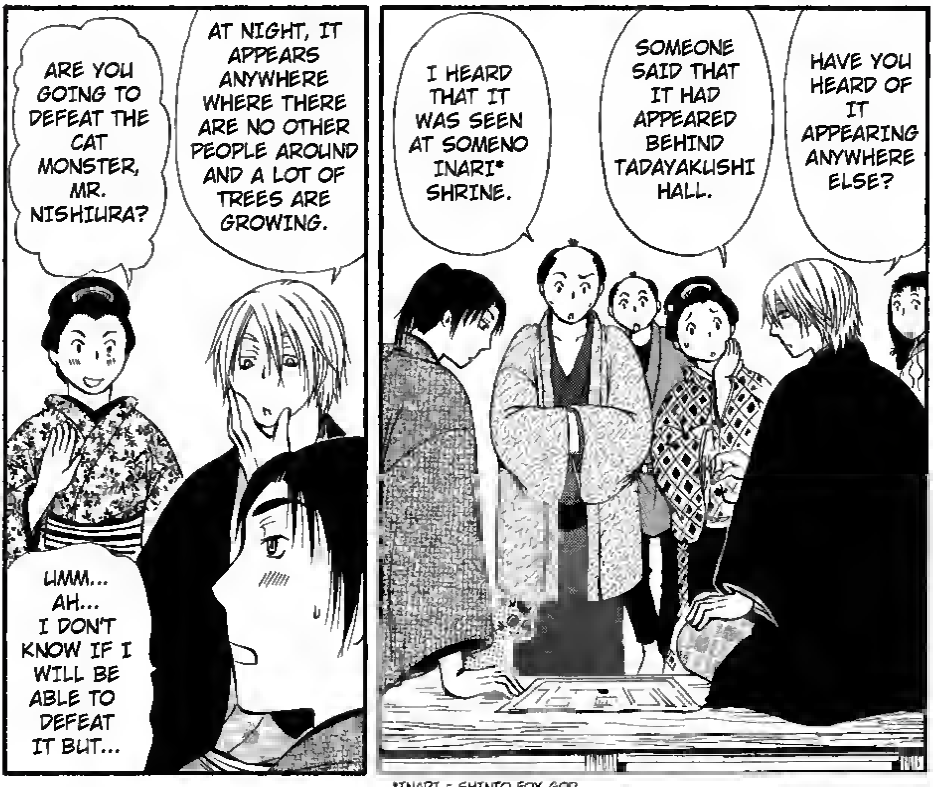
IF YOU REST FOR A WHILE, YOU'LL SOON BE ABLE TO GO TO THE DOJO.
REALLY, MASTER NISHIURA?
WELL, IT'S GOOD THAT'S ALL THAT HAPPENED.
MIGIMARU, HIDARIMARU, HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
RUFF! RUFF!
OH!

YES, I REALLY THINK SO.
HA HA HA HA
THAT'S GREAT! I'LL DO MY BEST TO STAY STILL!
THAT'S GOOD, BIG BROTHER!
MR. NISHIURA, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO AND EAT SUSHI FOR DINNER?
A MEAL OF BAMBOO THICKETS AND BARLEY RICE
THERE'S THAT DELICIOUS FOOD STAND NEAR THE BRIDGE...
MR. NISHIURA?
...I CAN'T...
MEOW?

I CAN'T FORGIVE THAT CAT MONSTER.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT GROWN UPS BUT...
SCARING YOUNG CHILDREN AND CAUSING THEM TO BE INJURED IS INEXCUSABLE!
IT HAS NO SHAME!
HMM... THAT KIND OF REASONING WON'T WORK ON SPIRITS BUT I DO KNOW ONE THAT IS A PAIN TO LISTEN TO...
"PULL"
OW OW OW ...
SO, WHAT WILL YOU DO, MR. NISHIURA ?

RUSTLE!
THOSE ARE FOR PUNISHING CHILDREN
IF IT DOESN'T LISTEN, I WILL SPANK ITS BACK-SIDE OR GIVE IT "UMEBOSHI NO KEI"!
THIS IS UMEBOSHI NO KEI
GRIND
HNN!!
GRIND!!
OH ...
PAFF!
I WILL LECTURE IT!
ACK!
CATS.
MEOOOOOW!
MEOW.
NITA'S GOING BACK FIRST.
MEOOOW.
HUP!




ARE YOU GOING TO DEFEAT THE CAT MONSTER, MR. NISHIURA?
AT NIGHT, IT APPEARS ANYWHERE WHERE THERE ARE NO OTHER PEOPLE AROUND AND A LOT OF TREES ARE GROWING.
UMM... AH... I DON'T KNOW IF I WILL BE ABLE TO DEFEAT IT BUT...
I HEARD THAT IT WAS SEEN AT SOMENO INARI* SHRINE.
SOMEONE SAID THAT IT HAD APPEARED BEHIND TADAYAKUSHI HALL.
HAVE YOU HEARD OF IT APPEARING ANYWHERE ELSE?

*INARI = SHINTO FOX GOD

BECAUSE OF THAT CAT MONSTER, THE REPUTATION OF CAT STREET HAS REALLY GONE DOWNHILL!
DON'T HESITATE TO TELL US WHAT YOU NEED, NO MATTER HOW TRIVIAL!
WE, THE PEOPLE OF THIS STREET, WILL LEND YOU OUR ASSISTANCE!
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NOT GOOD WITH CATS, YOU SAID IT MOST ADMIRABLY.
I WILL DO MY BEST TO PUT A STOP TO THESE STRANGE OCCURRENCES!
AS IF OUR CATS WOULD EVER DO ANYTHING BAD LIKE THAT!
YEAH, YEAH!

"YATTOU" IS A SLANG WORD FOR "KENJUTSU", WHICH MEANS "SWORD TECHNIQUES". THE "YA" AND THE "TOU" COME FROM CRIES MADE BY JAPANESE PEOPLE WHEN THEY USE A SWORD.

HA HA HA HA HA
MEW ...
HOWEVER, YOU'LL HAVE TO LOOK AFTER THE HOUSE, TIGER.
MEOOOW.
TIGER WOULD GET SWALLOWED IN ONE GULP!
AH HA! DEFINITELY!!
MEOW!!
PLEASE, STOP THAT! THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SO FORMAL!
EVERYONE, I MOST GRACIOUSLY ACCEPT YOUR SUPPORT.
YES.
PLINK♫
THE MOONLIGHT REFLECTED IN THE PADDY FIELDS
PLINK!♪
"NOISY"
キ"+ア
THEY HAVE NO SHAME!!
"NOISY"
キ"+ア
THIS NEWCOMER IS DOING AS THEY PLEASE!
IN FACT, THEY'RE ANGRY THAT SOMEONE HAS INVADED OUR TERRITORY.
THIS ISN'T BEING DONE BY ANYONE FROM AROUND HERE.
THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE GOING ON.
PLINK
PLINK♪
IT CHANGES EVERY NIGHT...
WHAT DID THE GROUP OF NEKOMATA SAY?

BUT THERE ARE HEAPS OF PLACES LIKE THAT!
CHATTER
WE SHOULD PATROL THE WOODS WHERE THERE ARE NO PEOPLE AROUND.
CHATTER
CHATTER
HOW ABOUT IF WE START IN THE AREA NEAR THE STREET.
NEXT WE'LL SEE THE SKILLS OF THE PEOPLE FROM CAT STREET.
THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK!
HA HA HA!
IT'S TOUGH GETTING THEM TO CALM DOWN.
I'M SO TIRED
IN THE COMPLAINING WORDS ARE THE TRUTH OF LOVE
PLINK! ♪
THEY'RE HOT-HEADED, SO THEY'LL BE FINE!
CAN WE LEAVE IT TO OTHER PEOPLE?
MRAOOOOOW!
AAAAARGH!!
にゃ
お
あ
ぁ
ん

にゃはは
NYA HAHAHAHA!
IT'S HERE !!
THE CAT MONSTER !!
WOAH!
TING A LING!
TING A LING!
YOU'RE THE ONE FROM ISEYA...
TING A LING!
SLIDE
TING A LING!

IT APPEARED! NEAR OMIYA!
HUH? WHO SAW IT?
MEW...
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO! GET READY! IT'LL SOON RUN AWAY!
OK!

RIP!
WOAH!
MR. NISHI-URA!

COME ON, HURRY!
WE'VE JUST HAD SOME NEWS ABOUT IT!
IT'S YOUR TURN TO GO ON PATROL TODAY...
HMM? MR. JUBEI AND MR. NISHI-URA...
CAT STREET

IT'S NIGHT-TIME
AH... COULD EVERYONE BE A LITTLE QUIETER?
おおっ
YEAH!
ALRIGHT! LET'S GO CATCH THAT DAMNED CAT MONSTER!
"SOUND OF CRICKETS"
"SOUND OF CRICKETS"
"SOUND OF CRICKETS"
RUSTLE
... SEVERAL PEOPLE ...
I CAN FEEL THE PRESENCE OF...
SHH!
"SOUND OF CRICKETS"
WHY IS IT SO TERRIBLY QUIET?
CAT STREET
IT'S NOT HERE ANYMORE ?
HMM ...
"SOUND OF CRICKETS"
"SOUND OF CRICKETS"
"SOUND OF CRICKETS"

RUSTLE
...OOOOOOW!!!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
MRAAAOOO....

MRRAAAOOOW!!!
IT REALLY EXISTS !!
WOAH! THAT'S IT!

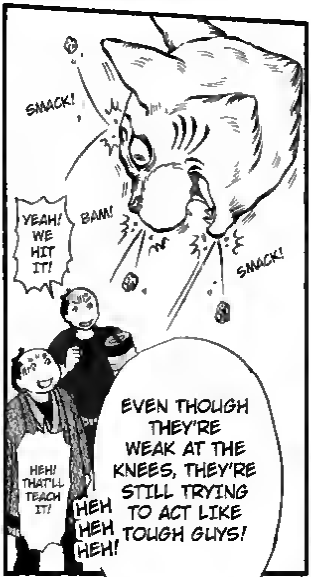
PAH!

MRAAOOW!!
ふぎゃあぁあ
MR. NISHI-URA?
HMM?
M... MR. NISHIURA, PLEASE KILL IT, QUICKLY!
SHWP!
SHLIP!
ONCE IT'S MOVEMENTS HAVE SLOWED DOWN, WE'LL USE THIS ROPE...
長屋
SO, WHAT SO WE DO NOW?
WHISPER
IT'S NO GOOD! DUE TO THE MASSIVE SIZE OF THE CAT, IT'S LIKE HIS SOUL HAS LEFT HIS BODY!
WHISPER
NO WAY!
猫丁長屋
CAT STREET
にゃはは
NYA HAHA HA!
HEY, MR. NISHI-URA!
TRY TO REME-MBER !!
どこびし
FOREHEAD FLICK!
うひぃいいAAARGH!!ぃ
ふぅ
おんっ
FWOOSH!!
IT'S TOO DANG-EROUS !!
WOAH !!

I JUST DON'T HAVE THE NERVE ...
IN MY HEAD, I UNDERSTAND BUT...
GRITS TEETH
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
THE CAT SAGE WE MET IN THE PAST WAS MUCH BIGGER WASN'T IT?
OH! THAT'S RIGHT!
HUH?
TREMBLE
EVEN THOUGH YOUR HANDS ARE COLD AND TREMBLING, YOU ARE STILL TRYING YOUR BEST.
IT IS JUST HIDDEN INSIDE ...

...BUT REALLY, YOU HAVE STRENGTH AND WILLPOWER.

ふぎゃあああ
MRAAOOOOW!
AAAARGHH!!


SMACK!
BAM!
SMACK!
YEAH! WE HIT IT!
HEH! THAT'LL TEACH IT!
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE WEAK AT THE KNEES, THEY'RE STILL TRYING TO ACT LIKE TOUGH GUYS!
HEH HEH HEH!

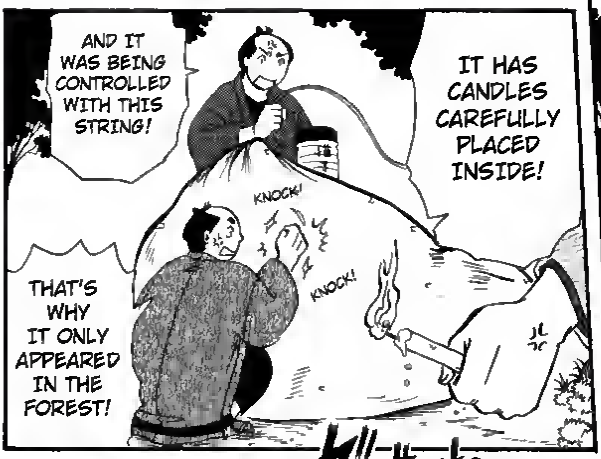
にゃあ
TAKE A LOOK AT THOSE GUYS.
あぁ
あぁ
MRAAOOW!
WHOOSH!
WHOOSH!
YOU IDIOT!!
SHOO SHOO!!
DAMN YOU! EAT THESE ROCKS!

HEEEELP!!
ALRIGHT.
GRIP
HERE I COME.
SHUP!
MRAAAOOOW!
NYA HAHAHA HAHAHA!

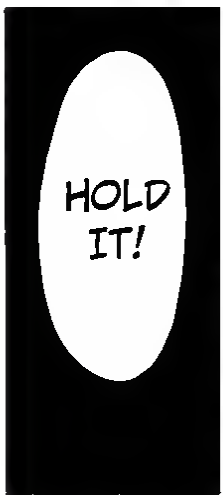
SWOOSH
CAT STREET
ACK!!
IT'S A DEAD END?
MR. NISHIURA !!
NYA HAHAHA HAHAHAHA!!
ニャハハハハハハ
ハハハハ
ヒヤ

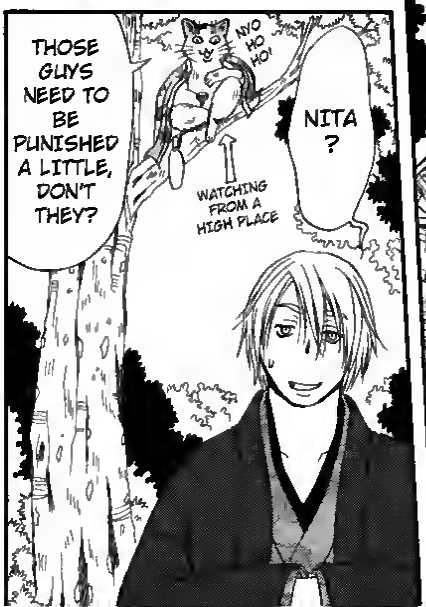
FWOOSH!
SHWP
SLASH!!

WITH ONE SWORD STROKE ...
SMACK!
ドゴ!
OUCH !!
EEK!
OW OW! IT'S HOT!
PA-KAN!
パ
カッ
HEY, THIS IS...
PAT!
PAT!


AND IT WAS BEING CONTROLLED WITH THIS STRING!
IT HAS CANDLES CAREFULLY PLACED INSIDE!
KNOCK!
KNOCK!
THAT'S WHY IT ONLY APPEARED IN THE FOREST!

RUSTLE!
UH-OH!!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!!


HOLD IT!

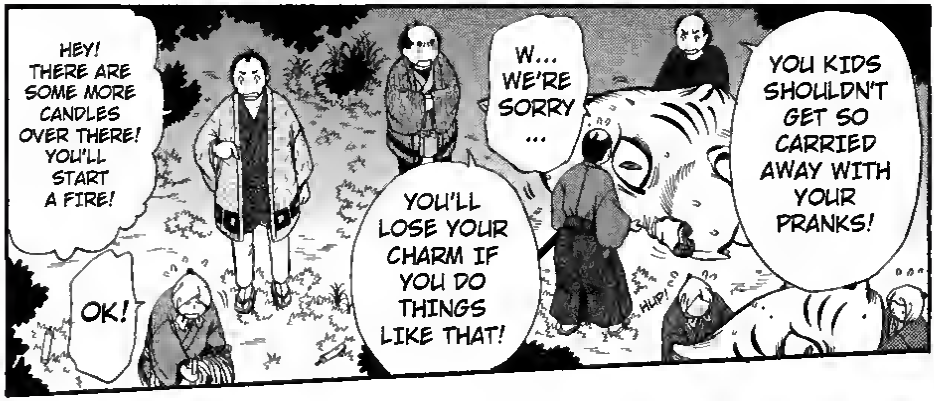

NYO HO HO!
NITA ?
WATCHING FROM A HIGH PLACE
THOSE GUYS NEED TO BE PUNISHED A LITTLE, DON'T THEY?

...MADE FROM PAPIER MACHE!

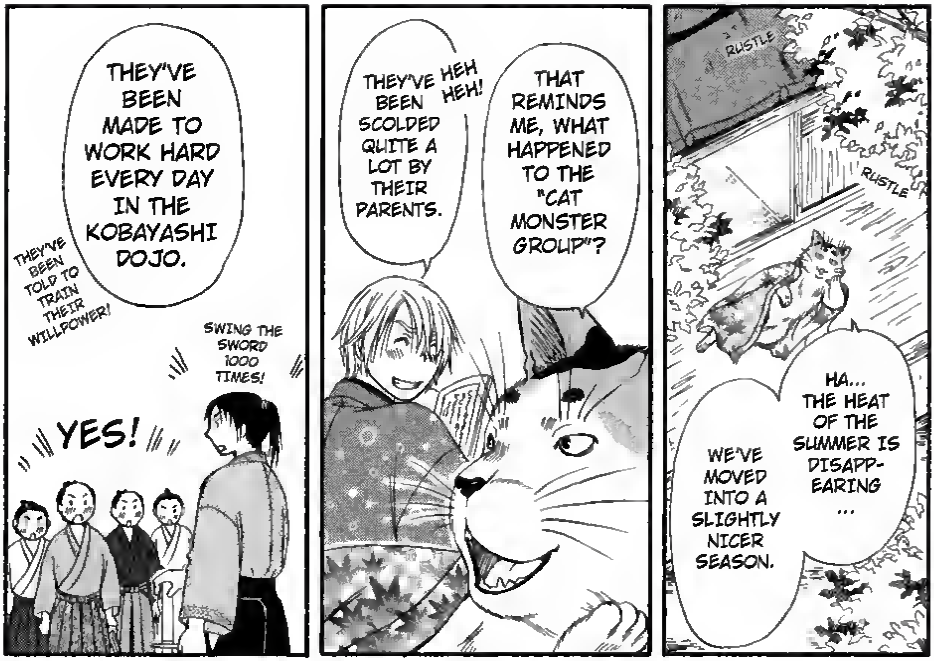
GET OUTTA THE WAY!
IF YOU DON'T MOVE, WE'LL SLICE YA!
YOU LOOK LIKE THE SONS OF WARRIOR FAMILIES.
YOU MUST ALL FACE UP TO YOUR CRIMES.
SH... SHUT UP!
WOAH! HE'S HUGE!
D... DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
CLICK
I'M NOT IMPRESSED BY TANTRUMS LIKE THAT.
WALKING ON GRASS
FWP ...
FWISH!!

I DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING?
GOOD. FIRST, YOU ARE GOING TO PICK THIS UP.
YES!
PFF!
AFTER THAT, I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU ALL A STERN LECTURE!
YES ...

YOU WILL LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY, WON'T YOU!?
NOD
NOD
NOD
SHING


HEY! THERE ARE SOME MORE CANDLES OVER THERE! YOU'LL START A FIRE!
OK!
YOU'LL LOSE YOUR CHARM IF YOU DO THINGS LIKE THAT!
W... WE'RE SORRY ...
HUH?
YOU KIDS SHOULDN'T GET SO CARRIED AWAY WITH YOUR PRANKS!

SIGN:
CAT
PICTURES
JUBEI


THEY'VE BEEN MADE TO WORK HARD EVERY DAY IN THE KOBAYASHI DOJO.
THEY'VE BEEN TOLD TO TRAIN THEIR WILLPOWER!
SWING THE SWORD 1000 TIMES!
YES!
THEY'VE BEEN SCOLDED QUITE A LOT BY THEIR PARENTS.
HEH HEH!
THAT REMINDS ME, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE "CAT MONSTER GROUP"?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
HA... THE HEAT OF THE SUMMER IS DISAPP-EARING ...
WE'VE MOVED INTO A SLIGHTLY NICER SEASON.

CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP
PERHAPS THEY JUST WANTED TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES SOMEHOW...

THEY ARE THE THIRD OR FOURTH RETAINERS TO THE SHOGUN, AREN'T THEY?
ALSO, IT WASN'T MADE PUBLIC THAT THEIR PARENTS ARE FROM THE UPPER CLASSES.
USUALLY, THERE ARE NOT SUCH HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF THEIR HEIRS, WHO ARE TREATED LIKE SOFT, GOOD-FOR-NOTHINGS AT HOME.

MEOW!
I DON'T KNOW THOSE CATS!
THEY'VE ALL COME TOGETHER TO SEE YASABUROU, WHO CUT THE FAKE CAT MONSTER IN TWO, AND THE FOUR PEOPLE THAT MADE IT.
THE PAPIER MACHE AND MIMICRY OF A CAT'S VOICE WERE EXCELLENT. THEY COULD WORK IN A THEATER.
AH HA HA!
THAT WASN'T THE WORK OF AMATEURS!
IT WOULD BE MORE FUN FOR THEM IF QUIT BEING IN THE WARRIOR CLASS.
PUFF PUFF PUFF
SINCE TAKING DOWN THE FAKE CAT MONSTER, YASABUROU IS NOT SO AFRAID OF CATS.
AH HA HA HA HA HA!
WHACK!
HYA!!
URYAA!!
TAMPA A LOAD
SMACK!
MASTER NISHIURA?
HE'S STILL NOT OVER IT!
OH, CATS!
MEOOW!!

第二十一話 完

END OF CHAPTER 21

猫絵十兵衛

ねこえじゅうべえおとぎそうし

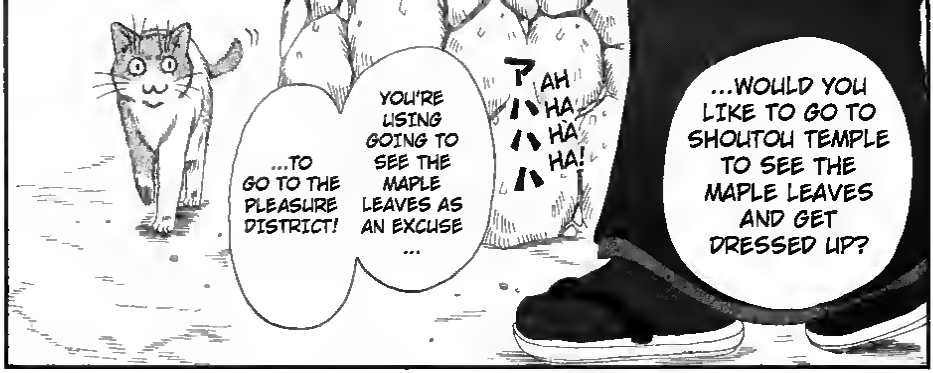
TALES OF A CAT PAINTER

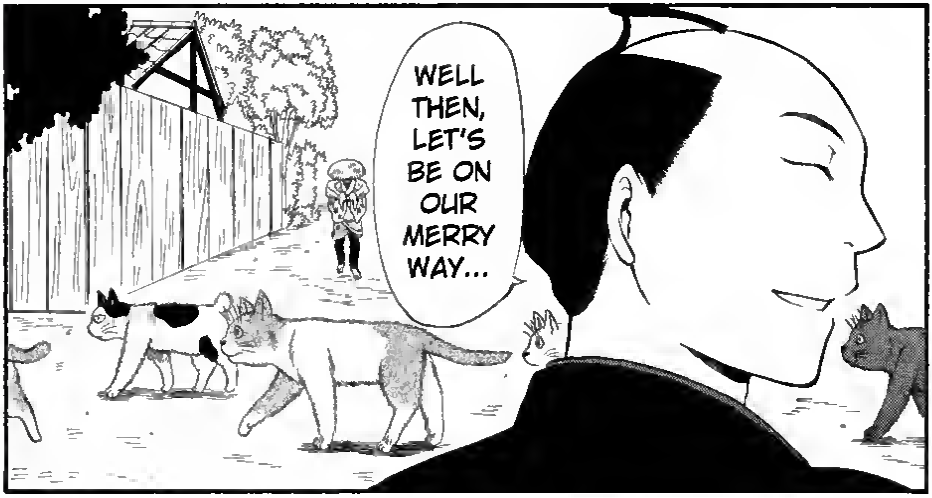
CAT LULLABY

ようらんねこうた

揺籃猫歌の巻

PLINK!
ペ ン…♪
JUST THE SINGING OF THE BIRDS OR THE RINGING OF THE BELL, MAKES MY HEART ACHE.
THEY FALL AND FLOW INTO THE IMOSE RIVER
AS I REMEMBER, THE TEARS COME.
ペンペ
PLINK PLINK
PLINK
ペン♪
BY THE WAY, MR. KEINO, AFTER THIS...
WEEELL... THE MASTER IS CHARMING AND ALLURING ...
SHE'S A FEAST FOR THE EYES!
PLEASE COME TO PRACTICE AGAIN.
YES ...
WELL THEN, MASTER MISUZU ...
THE BOAT PASSING THROUGH THE CHANNEL LOSES ITS OARS
しゃみせんならい
SHAMISEN* CLASSES
ペン♪
PLINK
*TRADITIONAL STRINGED INSTRUMENT

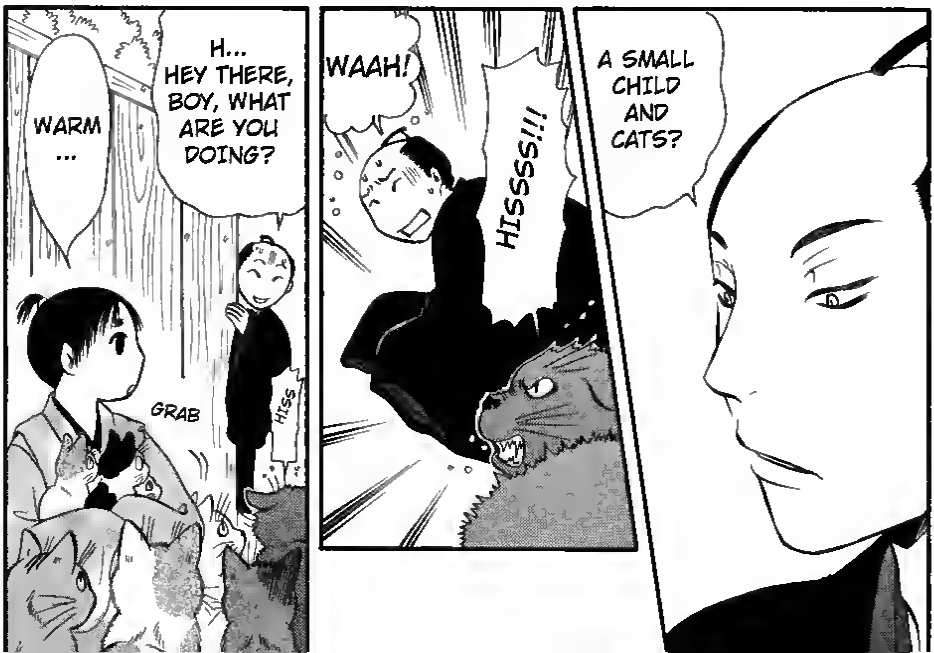

...WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO SHOUTOU TEMPLE TO SEE THE MAPLE LEAVES AND GET DRESSED UP?
アハハハハ! AH HA HA HA HA!
YOU'RE USING GOING TO SEE THE MAPLE LEAVES AS AN EXCUSE ...
...TO GO TO THE PLEASURE DISTRICT!

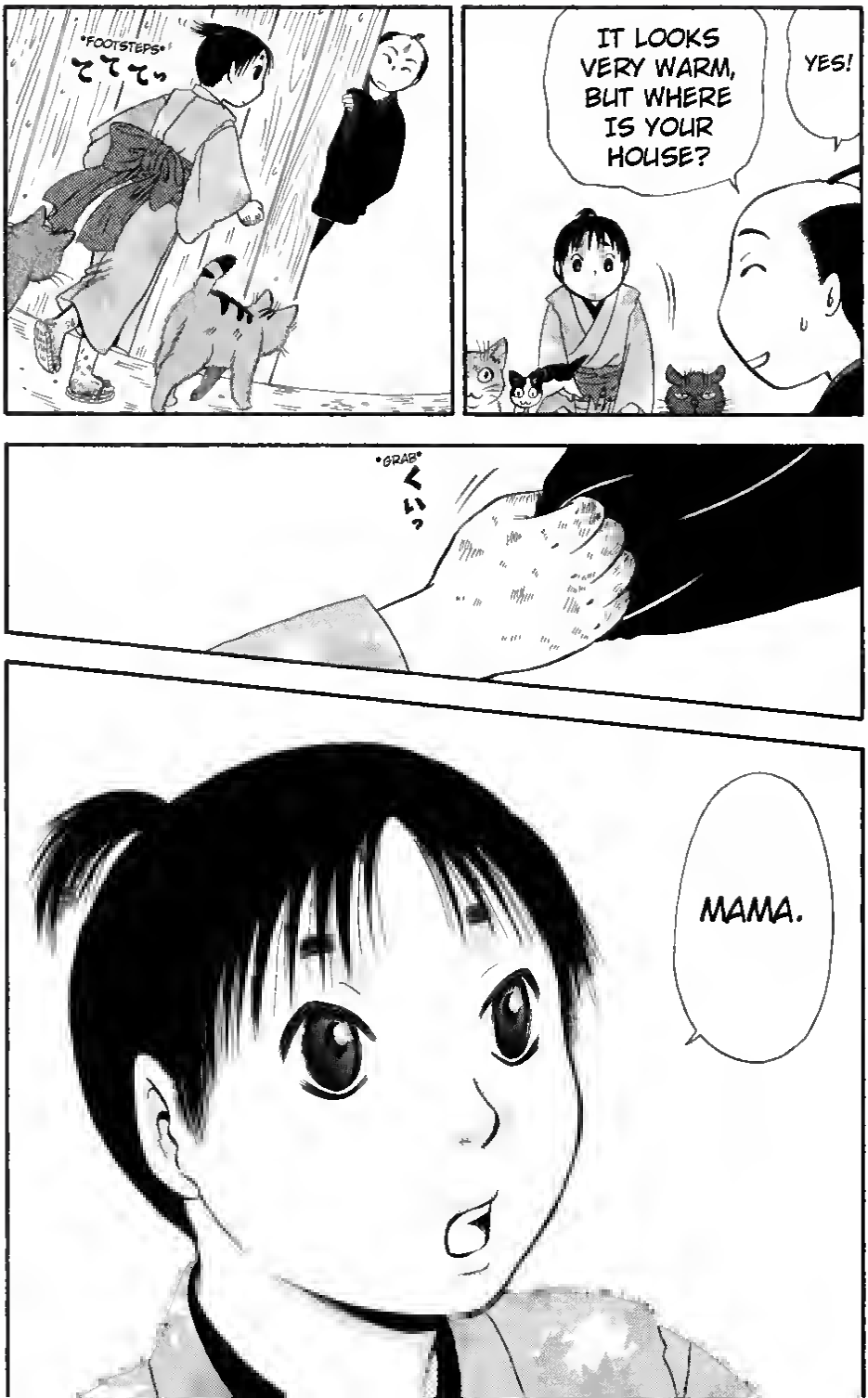

WELL THEN, LET'S BE ON OUR MERRY WAY...

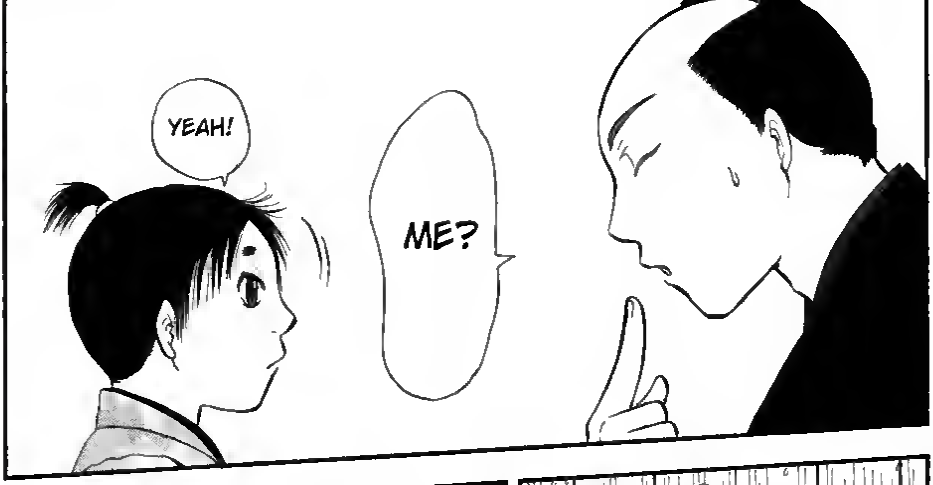
DEAR ME! CATS GO TO THE SEE THE FALL COLORS TOO?
HUH? A BIG PROCE-SSION OF CATS?

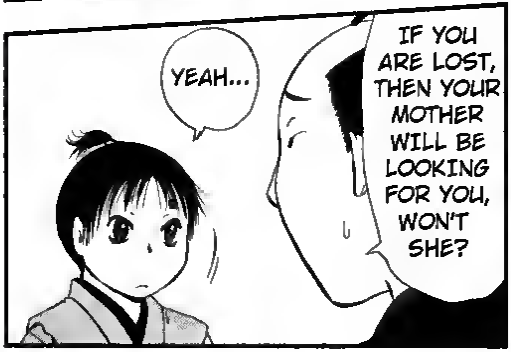
TO THE ...!
MOVING IN DROVES ゾゾゾ
MOVING IN DROVES ゾゾゾ

IT'S DANGER-OUS...
AH... HE'S GONE ...
WAIT, MASTER KEINO! THEY COULD BE POSSESSED BY SOMETHING!
THIS IS RATHER EXTRA-ORDINARY!
WAIT FOR ME!
PEEK
MEOOOOW!
MAOOW!

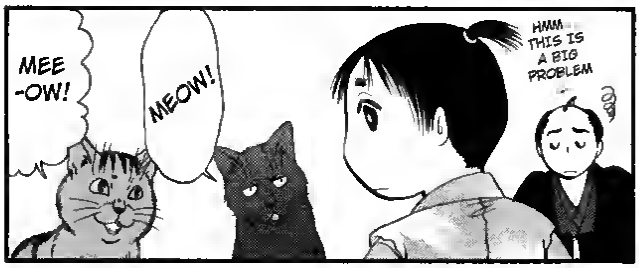

A SMALL CHILD AND CATS?
WAAH!
HISSSS!!!
H... HEY THERE, BOY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WARM ...
GRAB
HISS


"FOOTSTEPS"
てててっ
IT LOOKS VERY WARM, BUT WHERE IS YOUR HOUSE?
YES!
"GRAB"
ぐいっ
MAMA.

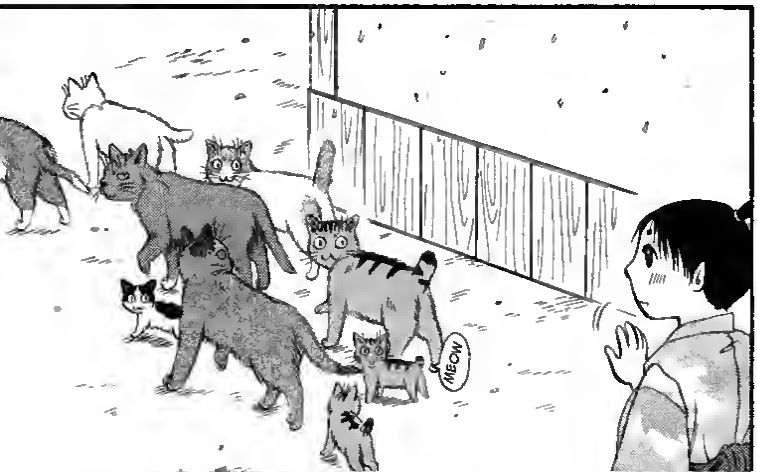

YEAH!
ME?

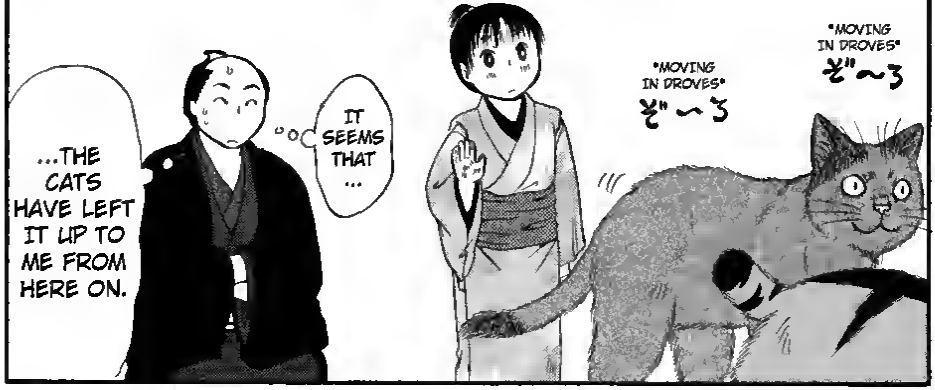

YEAH...
IF YOU ARE LOST, THEN YOUR MOTHER WILL BE LOOKING FOR YOU, WON'T SHE?

.....


MEE -OW!
MEOW!
HMM... THIS IS A BIG PROBLEM

ARE YOU CARRYING A "LOST CHILD CARD"?
SHAKE
ふるふる

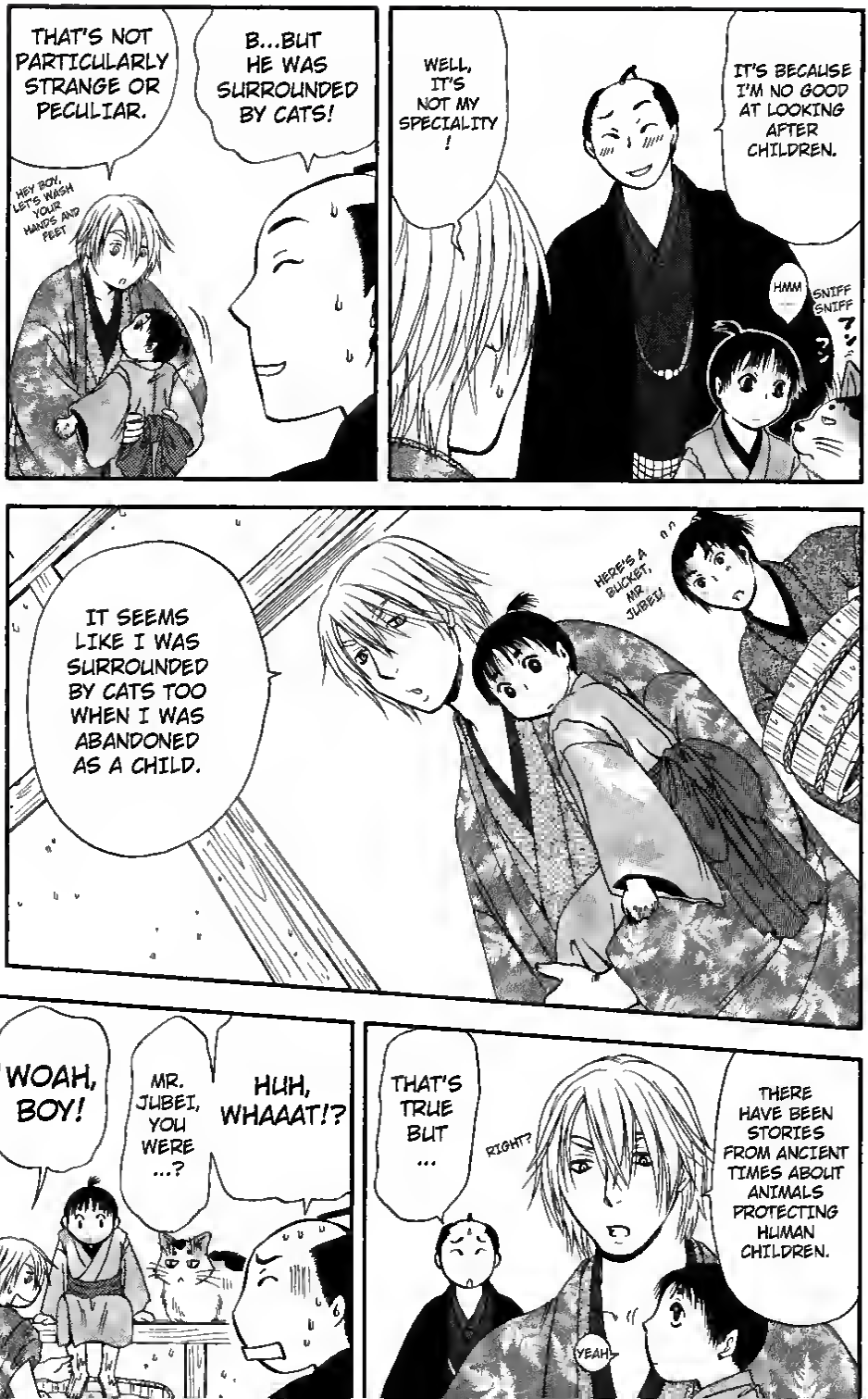

MEOW


...THE CATS HAVE LEFT IT UP TO ME FROM HERE ON.
IT SEEMS THAT ...
"MOVING IN DROVES"
ぞ～ろ
"MOVING IN DROVES"
ぞ～ろ

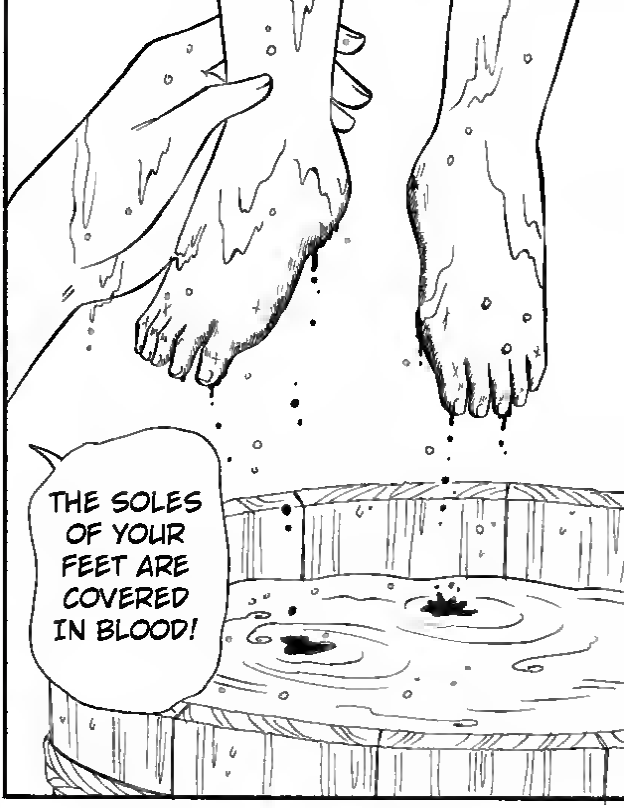
HELLO, MASTER KEINO!
...THAT'S WHY YOU BROUGHT HIM TO MY PLACE, "MASTER" HATSUKAZE?

LET'S GO TO SOMEONE THAT MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP.
YEAH!

SO ...
ねこえ
十兵衛
SIGN
CAT PICTURES
JUBBEI


THAT'S NOT PARTICULARLY STRANGE OR PECULIAR.
B...BUT HE WAS SURROUNDED BY CATS!
HEY BOY, LET'S WASH YOUR HANDS AND FEET
WELL, IT'S NOT MY SPECIALITY !
IT'S BECAUSE I'M NO GOOD AT LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN.
HMM
SNIFF SNIFF
IT SEEMS LIKE I WAS SURROUNDED BY CATS TOO WHEN I WAS ABANDONED AS A CHILD.
HERE'S A BUCKET, MR. JUBEI!
WOAH, BOY!
MR. JUBEI, YOU WERE ...?
HUH, WHAAAT!?
THAT'S TRUE BUT ...
RIGHT?
THERE HAVE BEEN STORIES FROM ANCIENT TIMES ABOUT ANIMALS PROTECTING HUMAN CHILDREN.
YEAH!

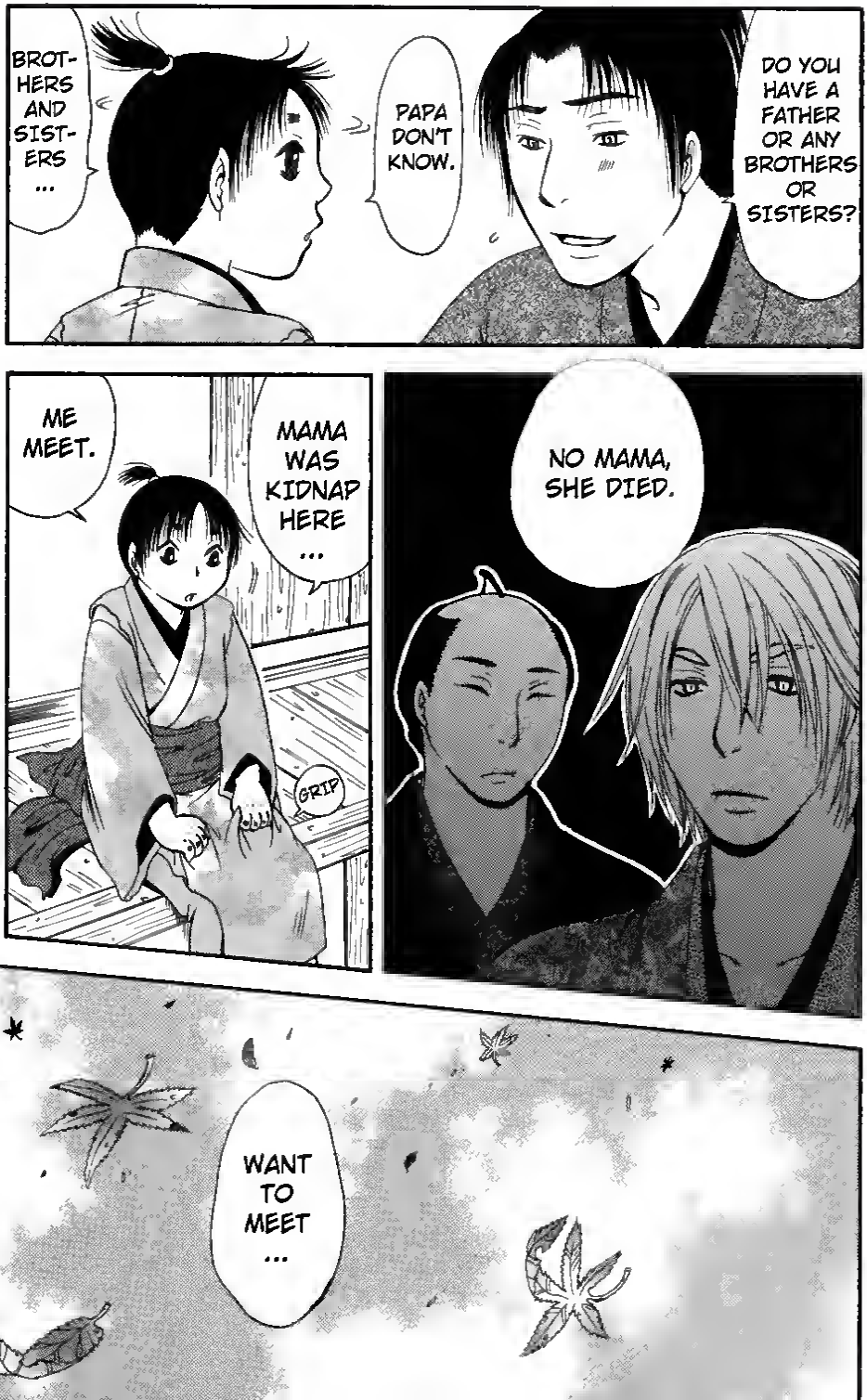
SHI... SHIMO ...
HMM ...
WHERE DID YOU WALK FROM?


THE SOLES OF YOUR FEET ARE COVERED IN BLOOD!

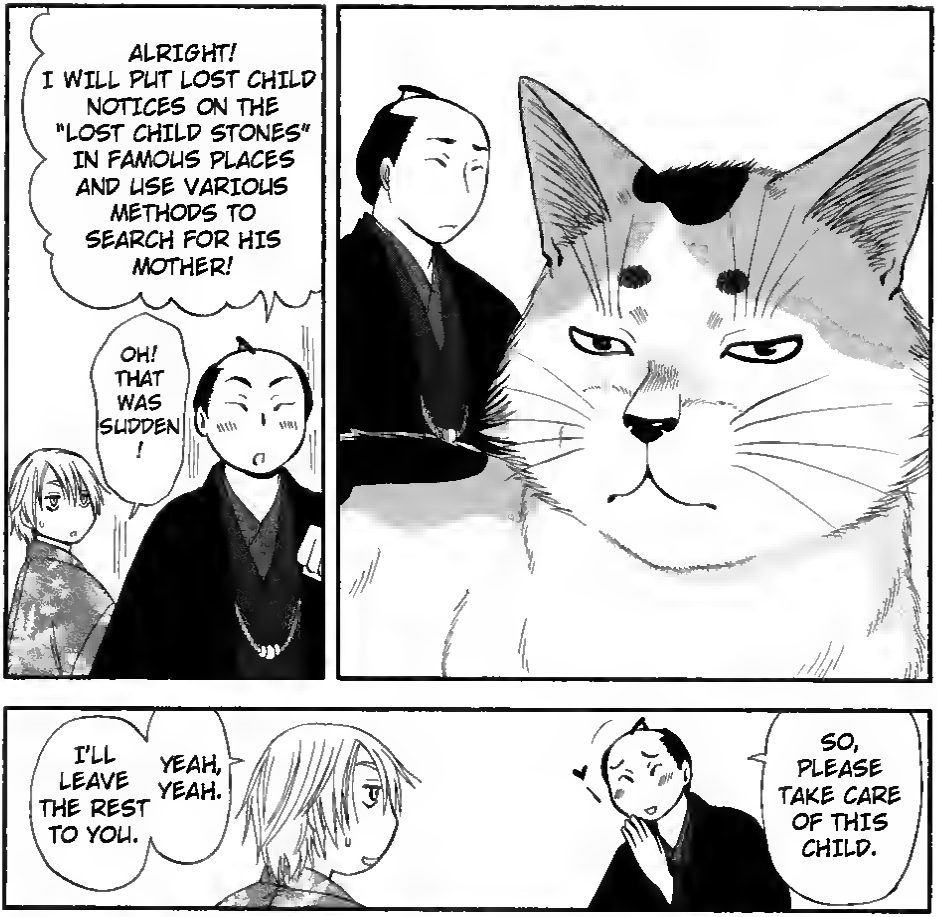
GYOTOKU IN SHIMOUSA !?
ON THE NARITA TOWN ROAD?
WHAAAT!?
SHIMOUSA GYO... GYOTOKU.

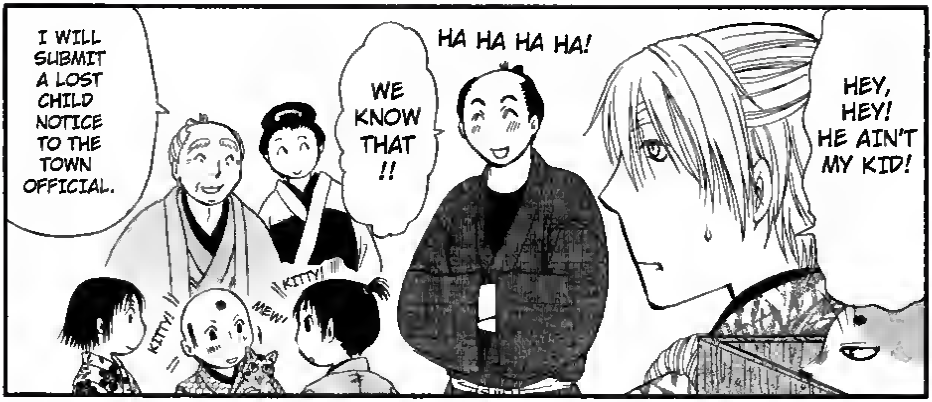
KITTY -GOD SAID COME HERE.
YEAH
BY YOUR-SELF?

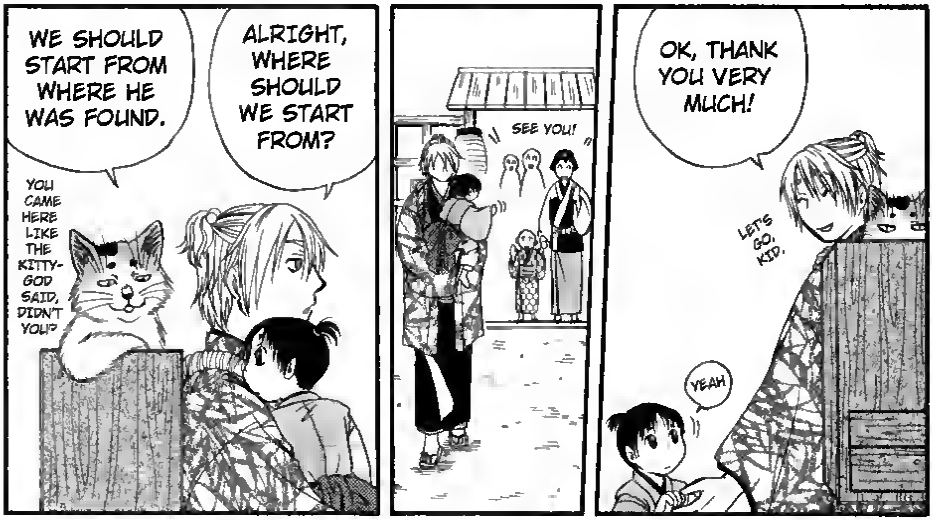
THE BIG KITTY PICK ME UP.
WHO IS "KITTY GOD"?

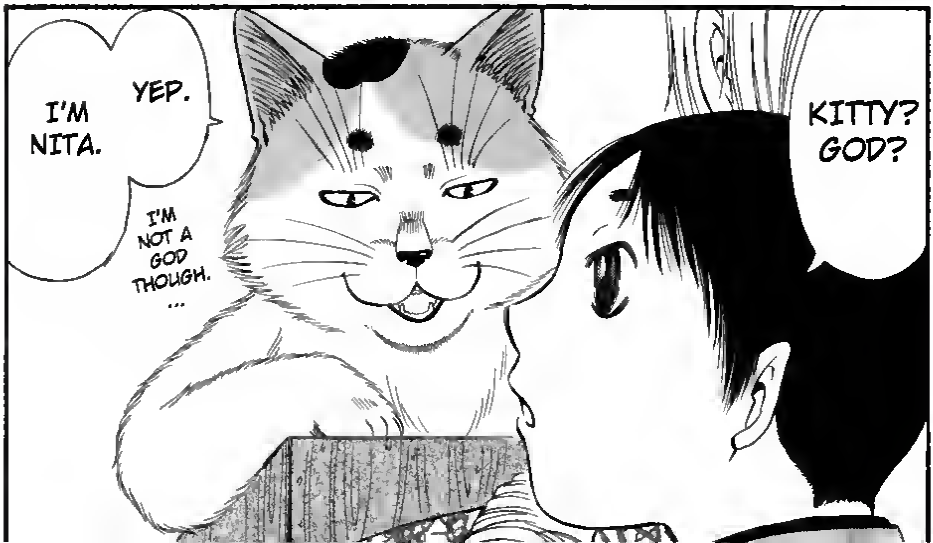

DO YOU HAVE A FATHER OR ANY BROTHERS OR SISTERS?
PAPA DON'T KNOW.
BROT-HERS AND SIST-ERS ...
NO MAMA, SHE DIED.
MAMA WAS KIDNAP HERE ...
ME MEET.
GRIP
WANT TO MEET ...

HE'S SLEEPING WELL.
SO, HIS MOTHER WAS KIDNAPPED OR SOMETHING?
...WELL NOW...
WHO KNOWS...?


ALRIGHT! I WILL PUT LOST CHILD NOTICES ON THE "LOST CHILD STONES" IN FAMOUS PLACES AND USE VARIOUS METHODS TO SEARCH FOR HIS MOTHER!
OH! THAT WAS SUDDEN!
SO, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THIS CHILD.
YEAH, YEAH.
I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO YOU.
WHAT? I'LL BE BACK SOON!
OK.
OH ...
MR. JUBEI HAS SUCH A CUTE KID.
MEOW ?

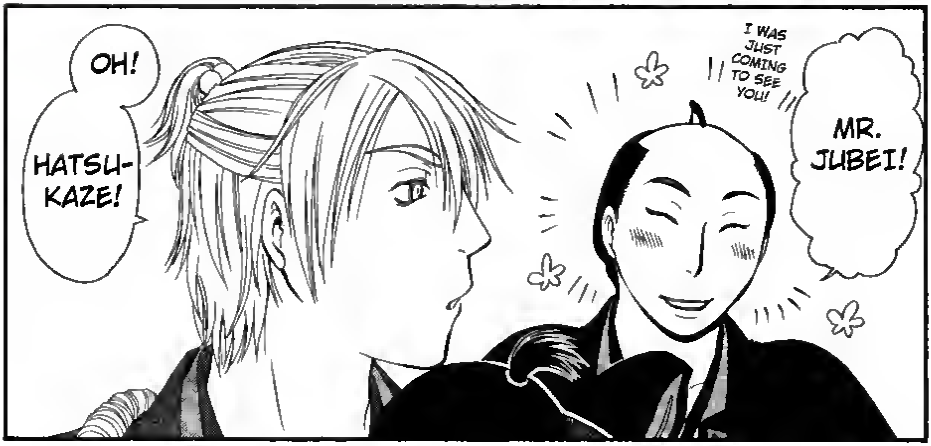

I WILL SUBMIT A LOST CHILD NOTICE TO THE TOWN OFFICIAL.
WE KNOW THAT !!
HA HA HA HA!
HEY, HEY! HE AIN'T MY KID!
KITTY!
MEW!
KITTY!


WE SHOULD START FROM WHERE HE WAS FOUND.
ALRIGHT, WHERE SHOULD WE START FROM?
YOU CAME HERE LIKE THE KITTY-GOD SAID, DIDN'T YOU?
SEE YOU!
OK, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
LET'S GO, KID.
YEAH


I'M NITA.
YEP.
I'M NOT A GOD THOUGH. ...
KITTY? GOD?

NI...
WELL ...
THAT'LL DO...
WHAT ARE YOUR MOTHER'S SPECIAL FEATURES?
HMM ...
KIND, SOFT, WARM...
WHEN SHE MAD, SHE'S SCARY...
I SEE.
THAT DESCRIPTION WOULD FIT MOST MOTHERS...
OK...
LET'S SEARCH THIS PLACE WITH A FINE-TOOTH COMB!
KITTY ...
RESTING PLACE
KITTY
MEOW

SIGN: BIG DANGO *DANGO = SWEET DUMPLINGS SERVED ON SKEWERS



I EVEN SENT ONE OF MY SERVANTS TO GYOTOKU BUT WE FOUND NOTHING...
I'M REALLY AT MY WIT'S END! I'VE HAD NO LUCK WITH THE LOST CHILD STONES!
AH ...

PLINK!♪
THEIR PARTING BEGINS WHEN THEY FIRST MEET
PLINK!♫
PLEASE, TELL ME!
WHAT!?
NO, IT'S NOTHING
PLINK!♪
PLINK PLINK!♪
AND THE DEW COMES EVERY NIGHT
IS THAT MISUZU WHO PLAYS THE SHAMISEN?
YES, I'VE BEEN TAKING HER LESSONS.
IN THE GARDEN OF DISCONTENT
OH, IT'S CLOSE TO HERE
UH
AHA! THAT'S MASTER MISUZU'S SONG!
PLINK!♫
THE LIFE OF THE DEW IS BEYOND ITS CONTROL AND DETESTABLE, NOW THE AUTUMNAL WIND BLOWS UPON ME.
PLINK PLINK!♪

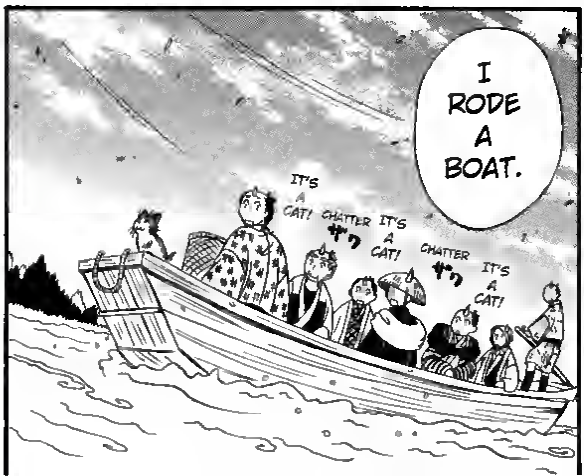
PLINK!
PLINK PLINK!
"SLIDE"
MAMA!
MEOW ?
MAMA!

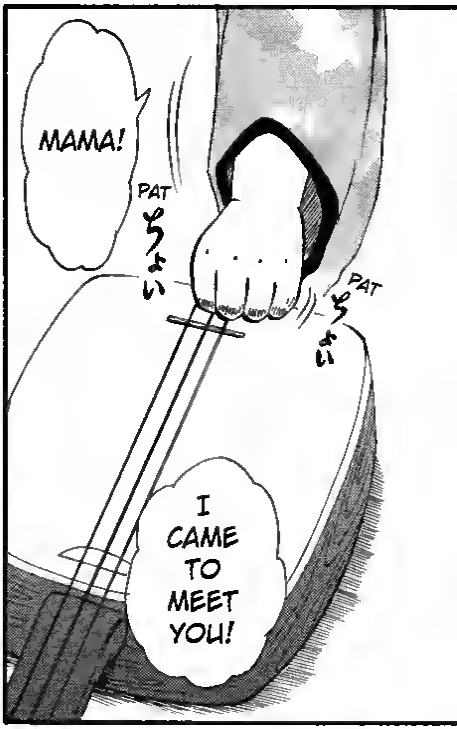
MASTER MISUZU, SORRY FOR COMING IN SO SUDDENLY!
OH! MR. KEINO!
DON'T DO THAT!
MAMA!
WHOSE CHILD ARE YOU?
YES?
MAMA!
BAM!
HUH? BUT THE MASTER IS SINGLE!
HEY, KID!

MAMA!
GOT IT!
AWW CRIPES!
NITA!
CLATTER
SLUMP
EEK!
WHOOOSH!
PSSSH!!
WOAH!

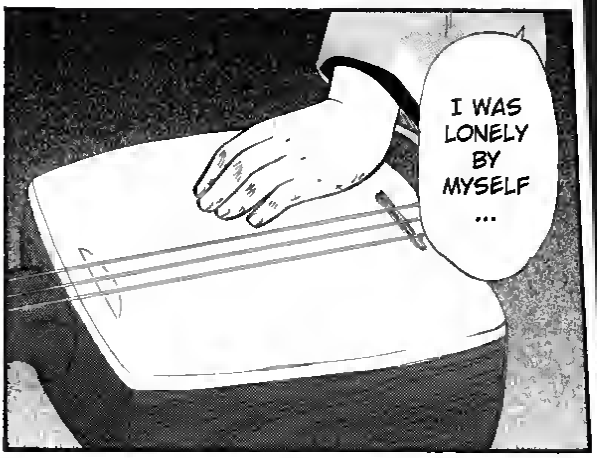
MAMA!
JUMP

IN THAT CASE...
THE KITTY GOD TOLD ME TO WALK A LONG WAY.
AH...
GO AND SEE FOR YOURSELF


I RODE A BOAT.
IT'S A CAT!
CHATTER
IT'S A CAT!
CHATTER
IT'S A CAT!


MAMA!
PAT
PAT
I CAME TO MEET YOU!

PLINK PLINK
PLINK
HE SAID I CAN MEET MAMA.
I WALKED FOR SO LONG.
PLINK PLINK
PLINK PLINK
AH HA HA HA!
HA HA HA!

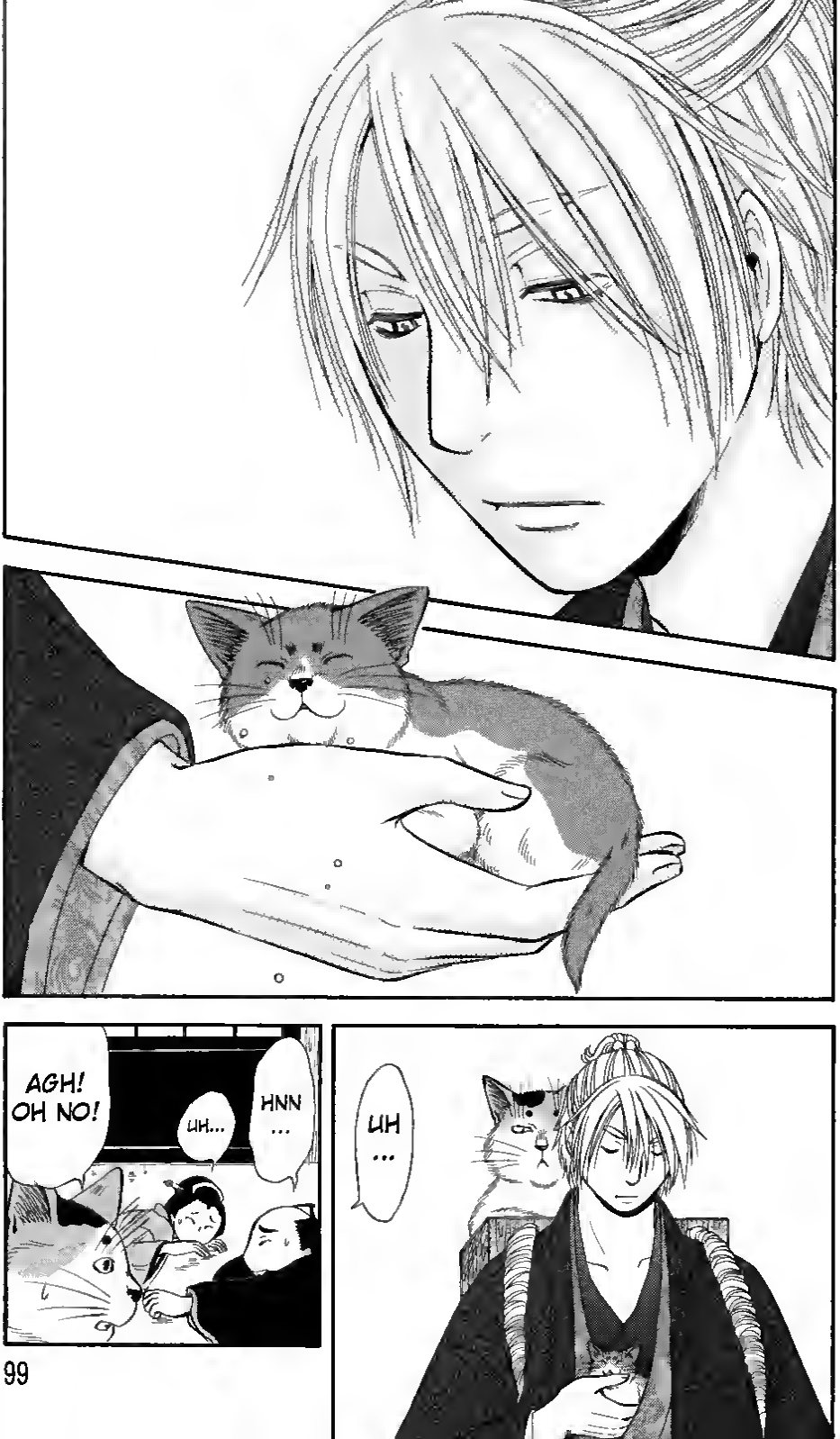

I WAS LONELY BY MYSELF ...

BUT I MET HER.
PLINK!

MA...
PLINK!

MAMA!
PLINK!
MAMA!
MAMA ...
PLINK!

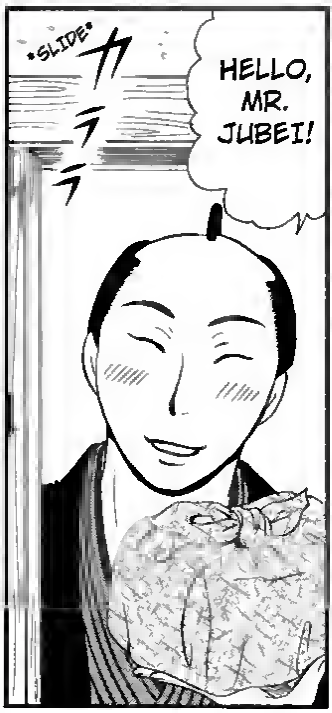
PLINK...
MAMA ...
FWOOOSH....
PLINK!
HIS MOTHER BECAME THE SKIN OF THE SHAMISEN.
THE CAT GOD OF SHIMOUSA IS A STERN GUY.


AGH! OH NO!
UH...
HNN ...
UH ...

PUFF!
ポ
WELL THEN ...
WAIT FOR ME
OH ...
PLEASE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
IT SEEMS THAT HE WAS MISTAKEN.
SORRY FOR DISTURBING YOU, MISS MISUZU.
HA HA!
I'M SORRY
IN FALL ?
PERHAPS YOU GOT HEAT-STROKE?
WHAT HAPPENED ...?
HUH ...?
HE WENT TO CHASE AFTER A FAT MOUSE.
.....
WHAT HAPPENED TO NITA?
HUH ?

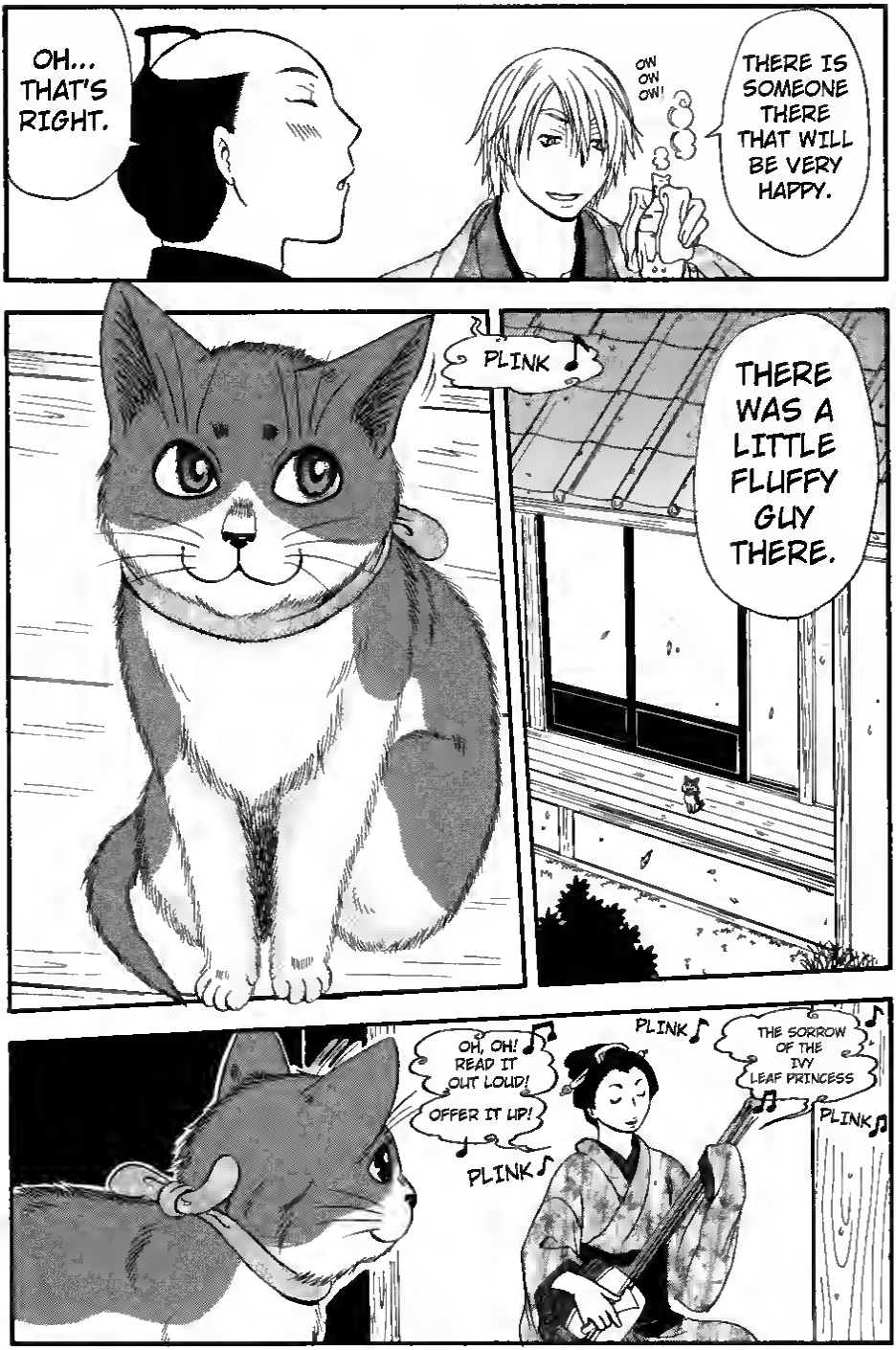
THAT'S MARVELOUS!
WE FOUND OUT WHERE SHE IS...
DID YOU FIND HIS MOTHER?
HATSUKAZE... COULD YOU REMOVE THE POSTERS FROM THE LOST CHILD STONES?
YES, THAT'S TRUE...
IT'S GOOD THAT HE WAS ABLE TO FIND HER SO QUICKLY.
HE WENT THROUGH SO MUCH TO GET HERE...

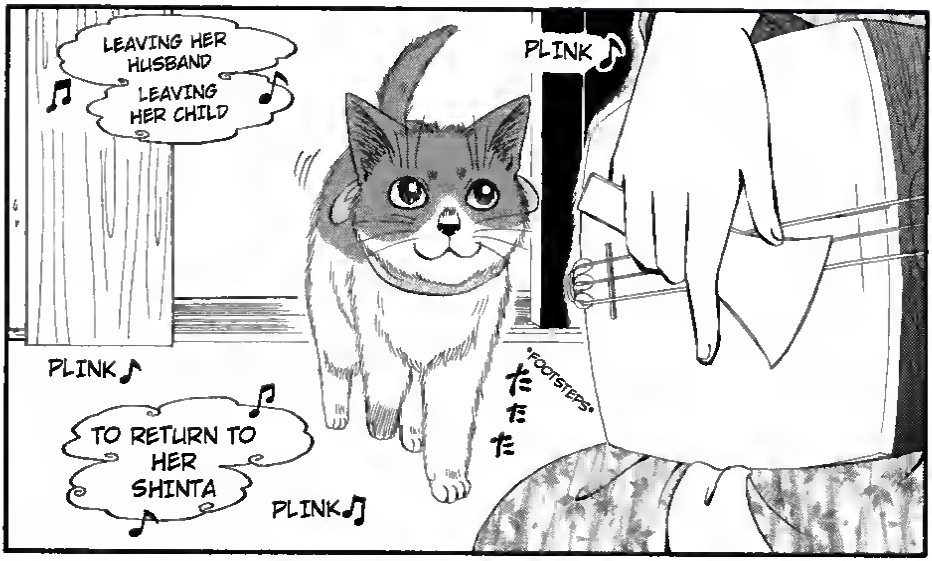
HEY, HATSU-KAZE.
COME ON IN.

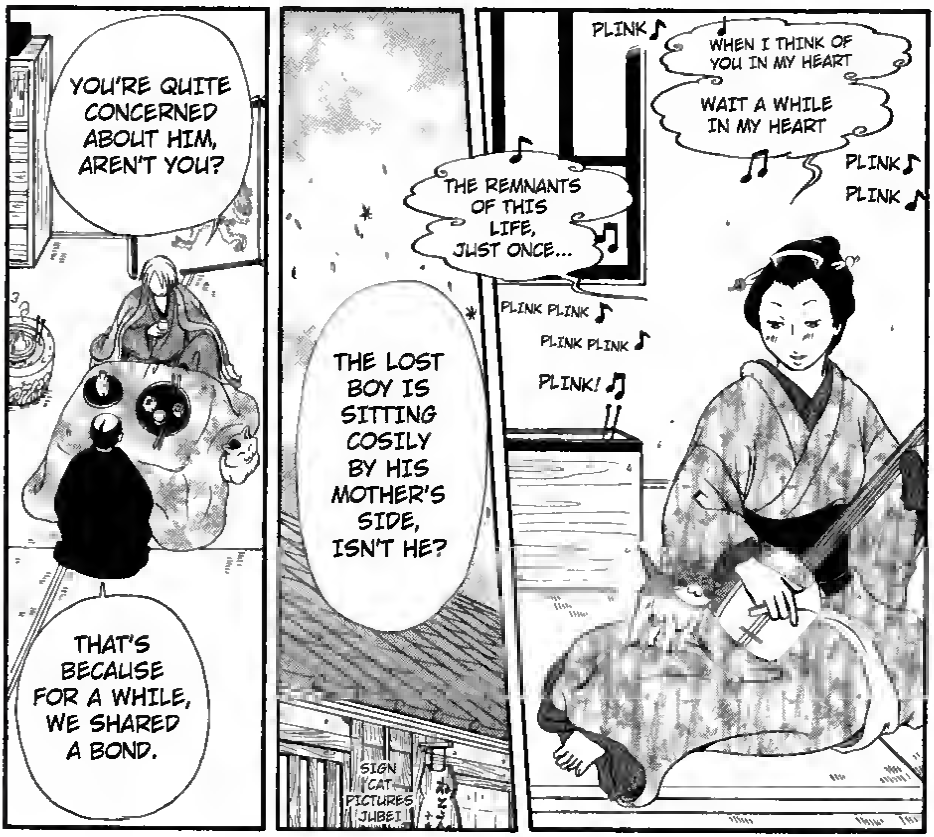

SLIDE
HELLO, MR. JUBEI!

IN THAT CASE, TAKE THEM TO MASTER MISUZU'S PLACE.
I JUST MISSED HIM? BUT I WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF BRINGING HIM SOME TOYS!
TSK...

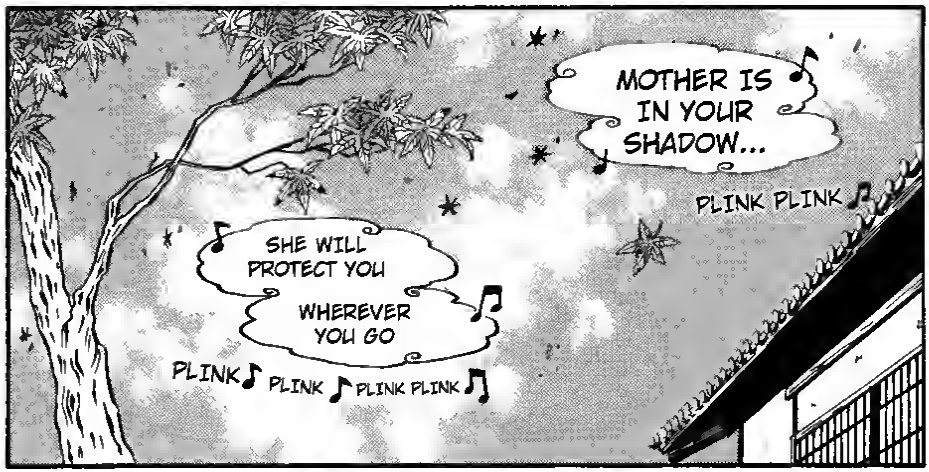
I'VE JUST LIT THE STOVE, WOULD YOU LIKE A DRINK?
OF COURSE! WHERE'S THE BOY?
HE WENT TO HIS MOTHER'S PLACE THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY.


OH... THAT'S RIGHT.
OW OW OW!
THERE IS SOMEONE THERE THAT WILL BE VERY HAPPY.
PLINK
THERE WAS A LITTLE FLUFFY GUY THERE.
OH, OH! READ IT OUT LOUD!
OFFER IT UP!
PLINK
PLINK
THE SORROW OF THE IVY LEAF PRINCESS
PLINK


LEAVING HER HUSBAND
LEAVING HER CHILD
PLINK♪
PLINK♪
TO RETURN TO HER SHINTA
PLINK♫
"FOOTSTEPS"
たたた

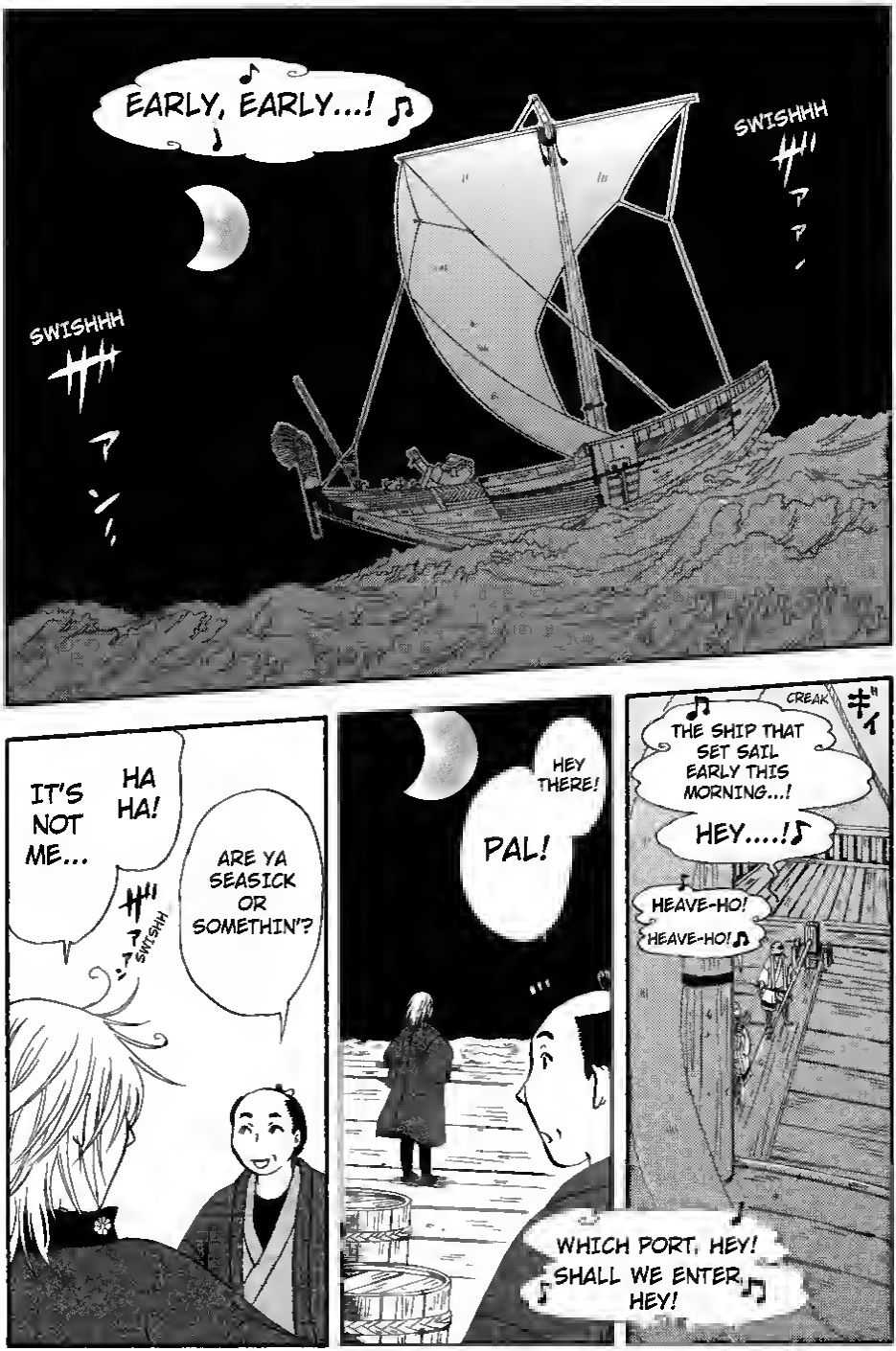

YOU'RE QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM, AREN'T YOU?
THAT'S BECAUSE FOR A WHILE, WE SHARED A BOND.
THE LOST BOY IS SITTING COSILY BY HIS MOTHER'S SIDE, ISN'T HE?
SIGN "CAT PICTURES JUBEI"
ねこ
THE REMNANTS OF THIS LIFE, JUST ONCE...
PLINK♪
WHEN I THINK OF YOU IN MY HEART
WAIT A WHILE IN MY HEART
PLINK♪
PLINK♪
PLINK PLINK♪
PLINK PLINK♪
PLINK!♫

RUSTLE
I WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING NOW.
HE'S A BRAVE AND CHARMING BOY.
IF I HAD A CHILD, ONE LIKE HIM WOULD BE GOOD
... WELL ... HE'S PROBABLY ...
PLINK ♪
PRAISED BY EVERYBODY
MOTHER IS HAPPY IN THE SHADOWS
PLINK PLINK ♪
PLINK PLINK ♪
PLINK! ♪



第二十二話 完

END OF CHAPTER 22

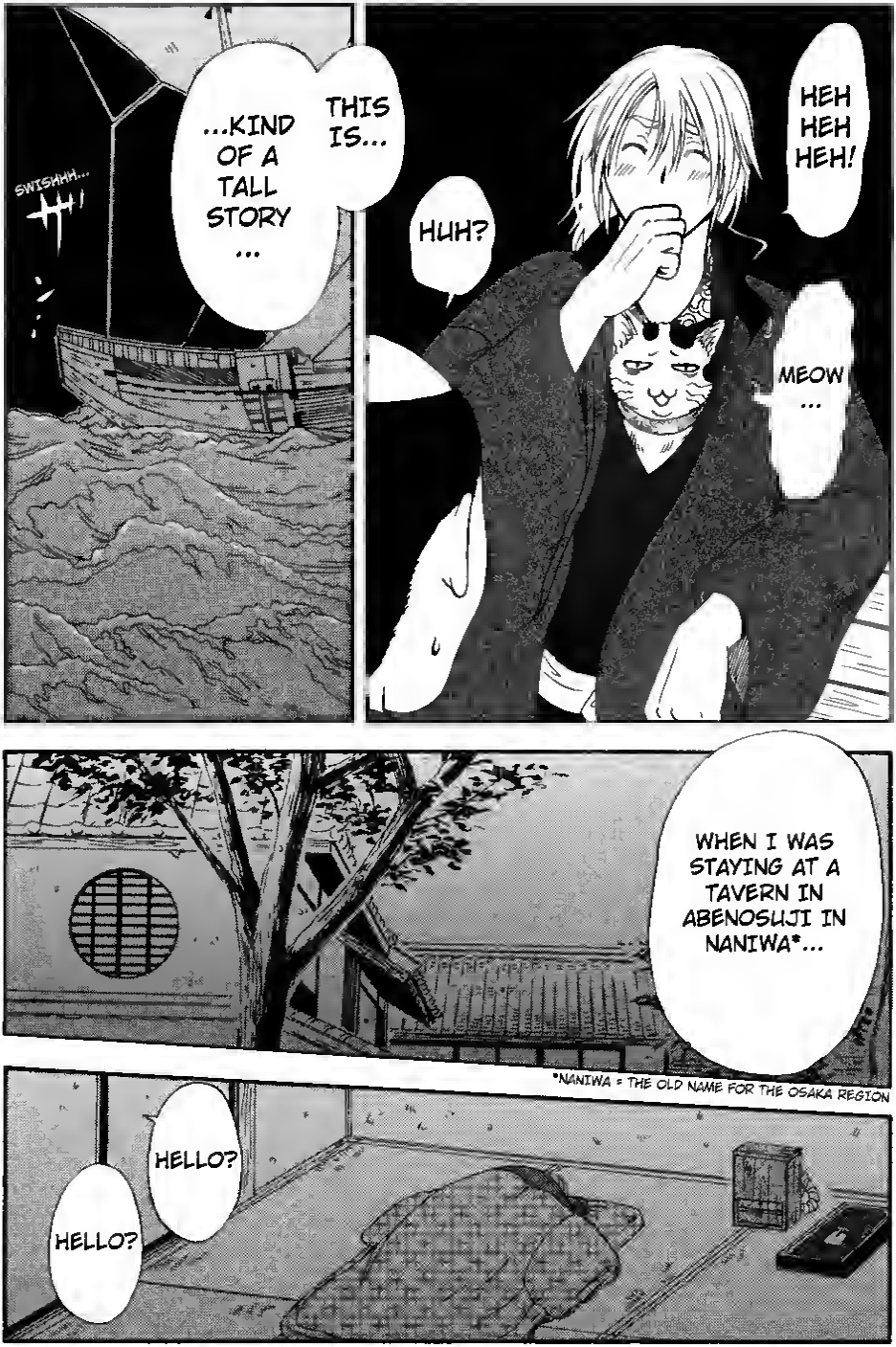

EARLY, EARLY...!
SWISHHH
SWISHHH
THE SHIP THAT SET SAIL EARLY THIS MORNING...!
CREAK
HEY....!
HEAVE-HO!
HEAVE-HO!
WHICH PORT, HEY!
SHALL WE ENTER, HEY!
HEY THERE!
PAL!
ARE YA SEASICK OR SOMETHIN'?
HA HA!
IT'S NOT ME...
SWISHH

TALES OF A
CAT PAINTER
猫絵十兵衛
御伽草紙
ねこえじゅうべえおとぎそうし
CAT SAGE OF NITA RIDGE
ニタ峠の猫仙人の巻
とうげ
ねこせんにん

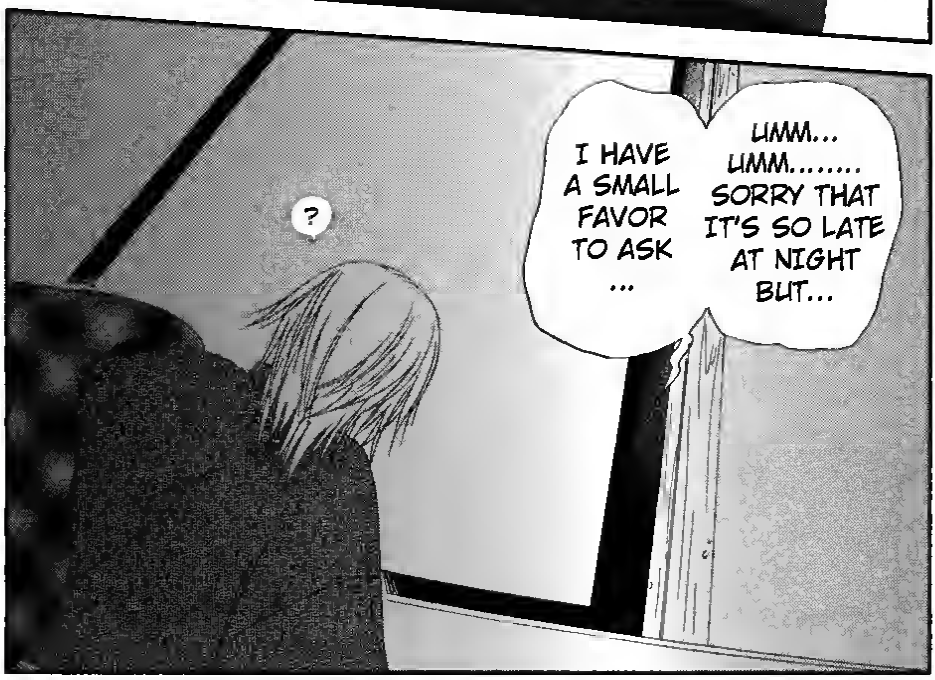
...THIS GUY IS THE ONE THAT'S SEASICK.
SWISHHH...
MEOW .....

MRAOW ... ...
IT'LL BE EVEN WORSE WHEN THEY GET ROUGH!
アハハ AH HA HA
HE GOT SEASICK FROM WAVES LIKE THESE?
TICKLE TICKLE.
こちょこちょ～

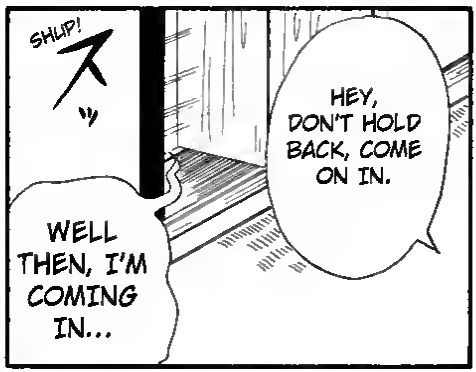
PURR PURR ... ♫
BUT, IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S PRETTY OLD, SO IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
I'VE JUST GOT SOME FREE TIME TO TRAVEL ALONE WHEREVER THE WIND TAKES ME!
REALLY ?
YOU'RE A PRETTY ECCENTRIC GUY TO TRAVEL FROM OSAKA TO SHIMOSHIMA CARRYING AN OLD CAT THAT'S NOT GONNA MAKE YOU ANY MONEY!
MAYBE NEXT TIME, I'LL KEEP A CAT ON THE SHIP!
AWW, THERE THERE
HUH? WHO?
THE REAL REASON IS THAT SOMEONE ASKED ME TO

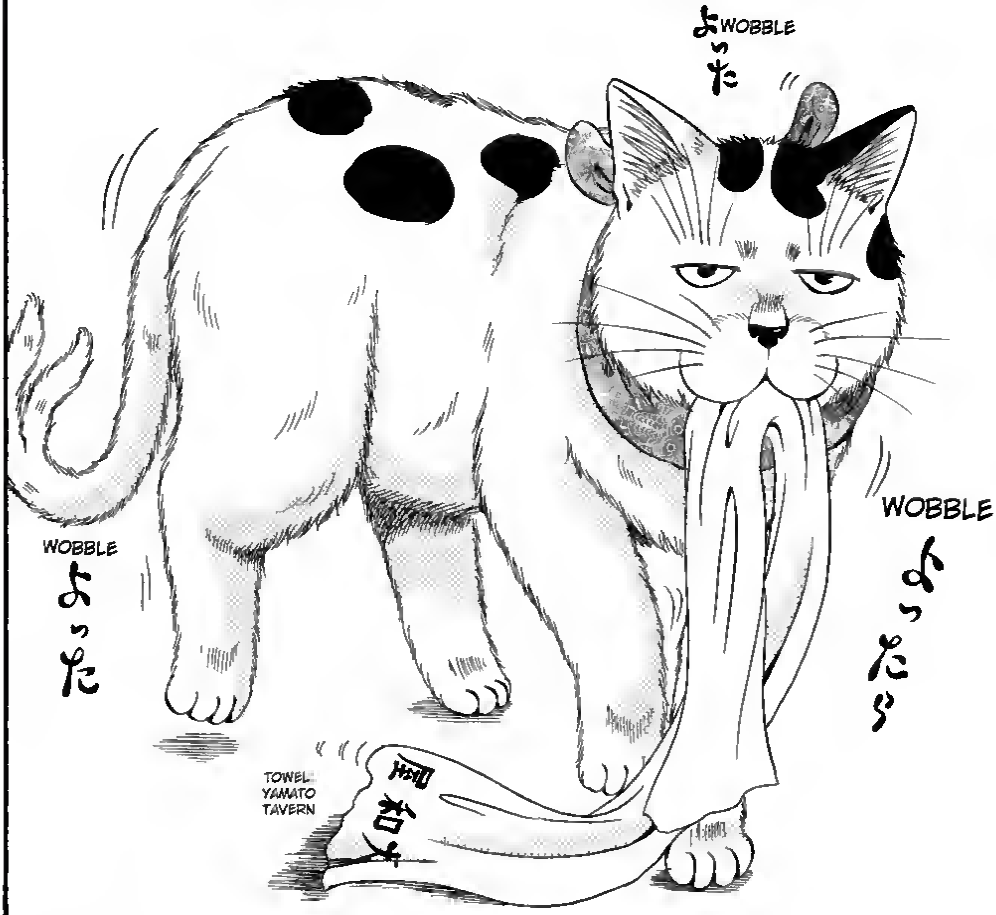

SWISHHH...
...KIND OF A TALL STORY ...
THIS IS...
HUH?
HEH HEH HEH!
MEOW ...
WHEN I WAS STAYING AT A TAVERN IN ABENOSUJI IN NANIWA*...
*NANIWA = THE OLD NAME FOR THE OSAKA REGION
HELLO?
HELLO?

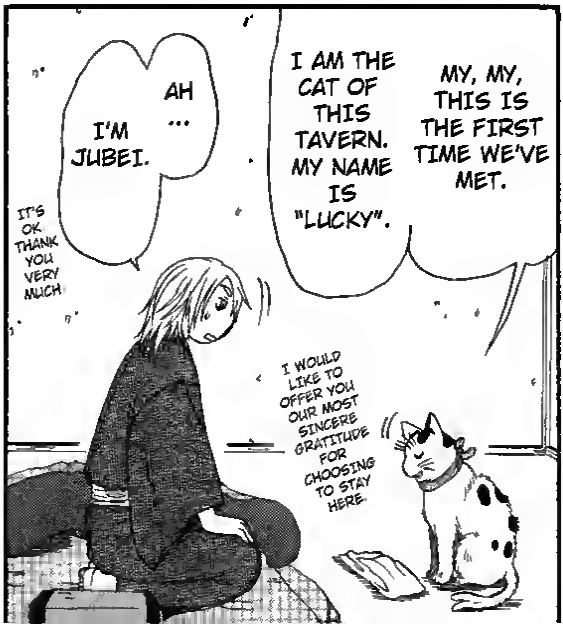
MR. TRAVELING CAT PAINTER...

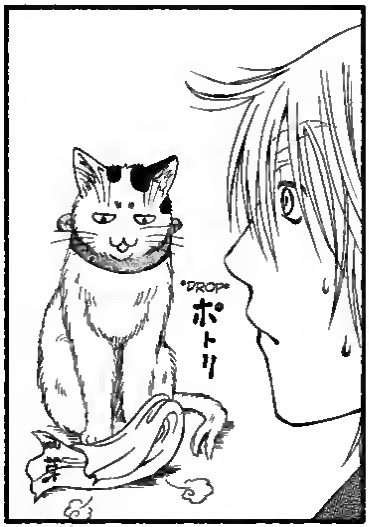

?
I HAVE A SMALL FAVOR TO ASK ...
UMM... UMM..... SORRY THAT IT'S SO LATE AT NIGHT BUT...

WOBBLE よろ
WOBBLE よろ
WOBBLE よろ


SHLIP! スッ
HEY, DON'T HOLD BACK, COME ON IN.
WELL THEN, I'M COMING IN...

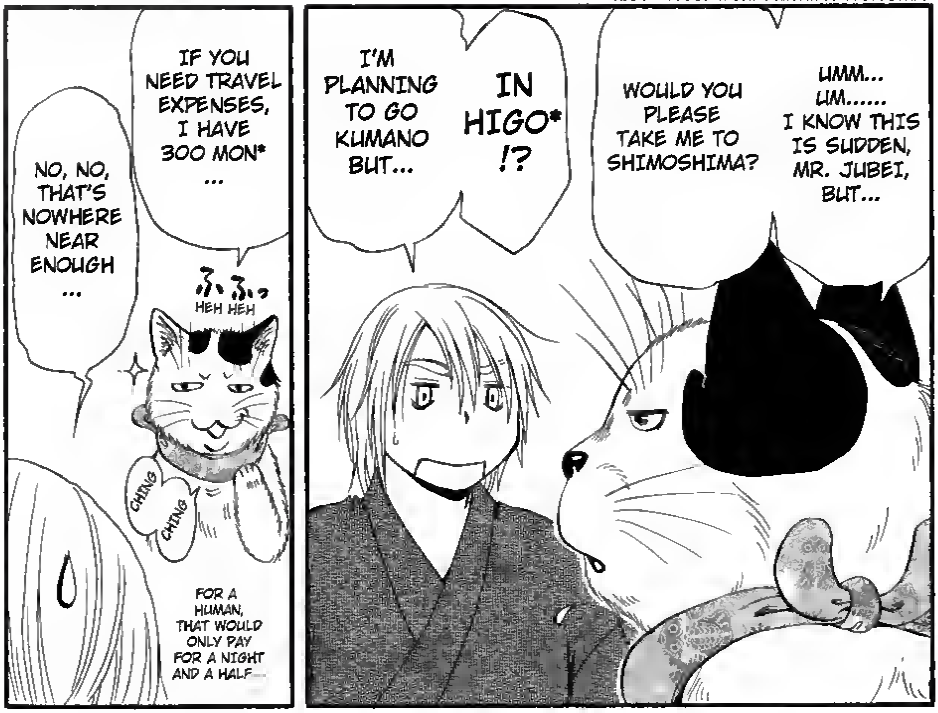

よったWOBBLE
WOBBLE
よった
WOBBLE
よったら
TOWEL
YAMATO
TAVERN

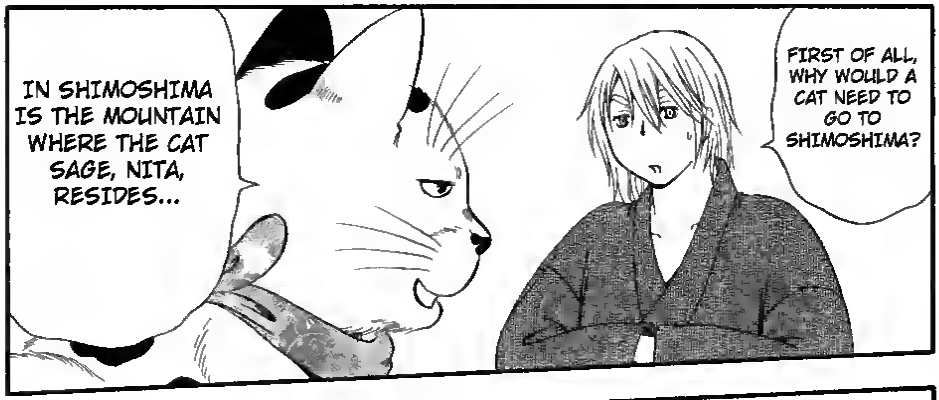

AH …
I'M JUBEI.
IT'S OK THANK YOU VERY MUCH
I AM THE CAT OF THIS TAVERN. MY NAME IS "LUCKY".
MY, MY, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE MET.
I WOULD LIKE TO OFFER YOU OUR MOST SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR CHOOSING TO STAY HERE.


"DROP"
ポトリ
TOWEL
YAMATO
TAVERN

*A MONETARY DENOMINATION, USED IN THE EDO PERIOD

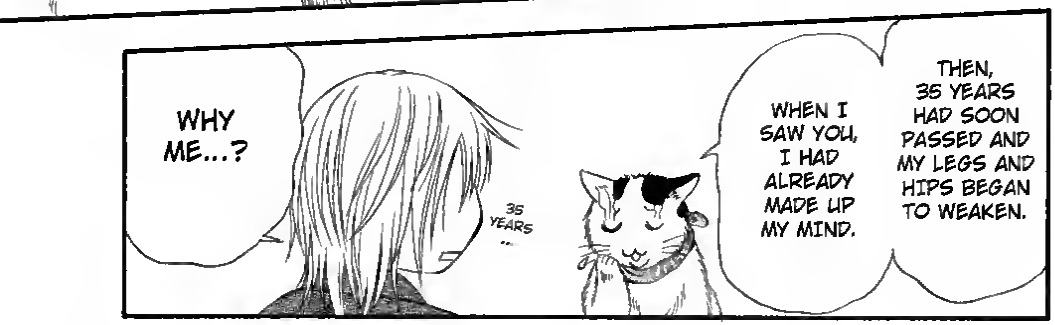
*HIGO = PRESENT DAY KUMAMOTO PREFECTURE


I'M PLANNING TO GO KUMANO BUT...
IN HIGO* !?
WOULD YOU PLEASE TAKE ME TO SHIMOSHIMA?
UMM... UM..... I KNOW THIS IS SUDDEN, MR. JUBEI, BUT...
IF YOU NEED TRAVEL EXPENSES, I HAVE 300 MON* ...
NO, NO, THAT'S NOWHERE NEAR ENOUGH ...
ふふっ HEH HEH
CHING CHING
FOR A HUMAN, THAT WOULD ONLY PAY FOR A NIGHT AND A HALF...



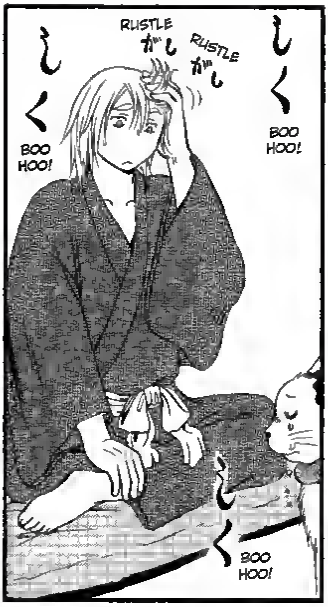
THE FAMOUS PLACE IS CAT CLIFF IN ASO.
AH... I HEARD SOMETHING LIKE THAT FROM THE MASTER BUT...
AFTER THAT, WE CAN CONTINUE OUR TRAINING OR WE ARE FREE TO DESCEND THE MOUNTAIN.
HUMANS AND NEKOMATA ARE THE SAME. AS WE GET OLD, WE BEGIN TO MISS OUR HOMETOWNS.
I WAS ORIGINALLY BORN IN SHIMOSHIMA ...
HMM...
HOWEVER, THE PEOPLE OF THIS HOUSE ARE VERY FOND OF ME...
MEOW!
OH, YOU'RE SO CUTE!
THE PROPIETOR OF TWO GENERATIONS AGO
EVEN IF I BECOME A NEKOMATA THAT LEAVES FOR TRAINING...
I'LL GIVE HIM MINE TOO!
DAD, THAT'S SNEAKY!
HEY, LUCKY, YOU WANT SOME?
PREVIOUS PROPRIETOR
...THEY ARE SO FULL OF KINDNESS THAT IT WILL BE HARD TO LEAVE THEM.

"I'LL LEAVE TOMORROW".
"NO, I'LL LEAVE IN A FEW DAYS".
AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGMENT, I KEPT PUTTING IT OFF.


WHY ME...?
35 YEARS...
WHEN I SAW YOU, I HAD ALREADY MADE UP MY MIND.
THEN, 35 YEARS HAD SOON PASSED AND MY LEGS AND HIPS BEGAN TO WEAKEN.

MY HEART WILL ALWAYS REMAIN HERE BUT...
BUT WHY ME?
BOO HOO ...

NOT LONG AGO, I ASKED THE CURRENT OWNER FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE ...
SO HE BROUGHT ME THESE FAREWELL GIFTS, THIS TOWEL AND THIS TRAVEL MONEY...
TOWEL. YAMATO TAVERN

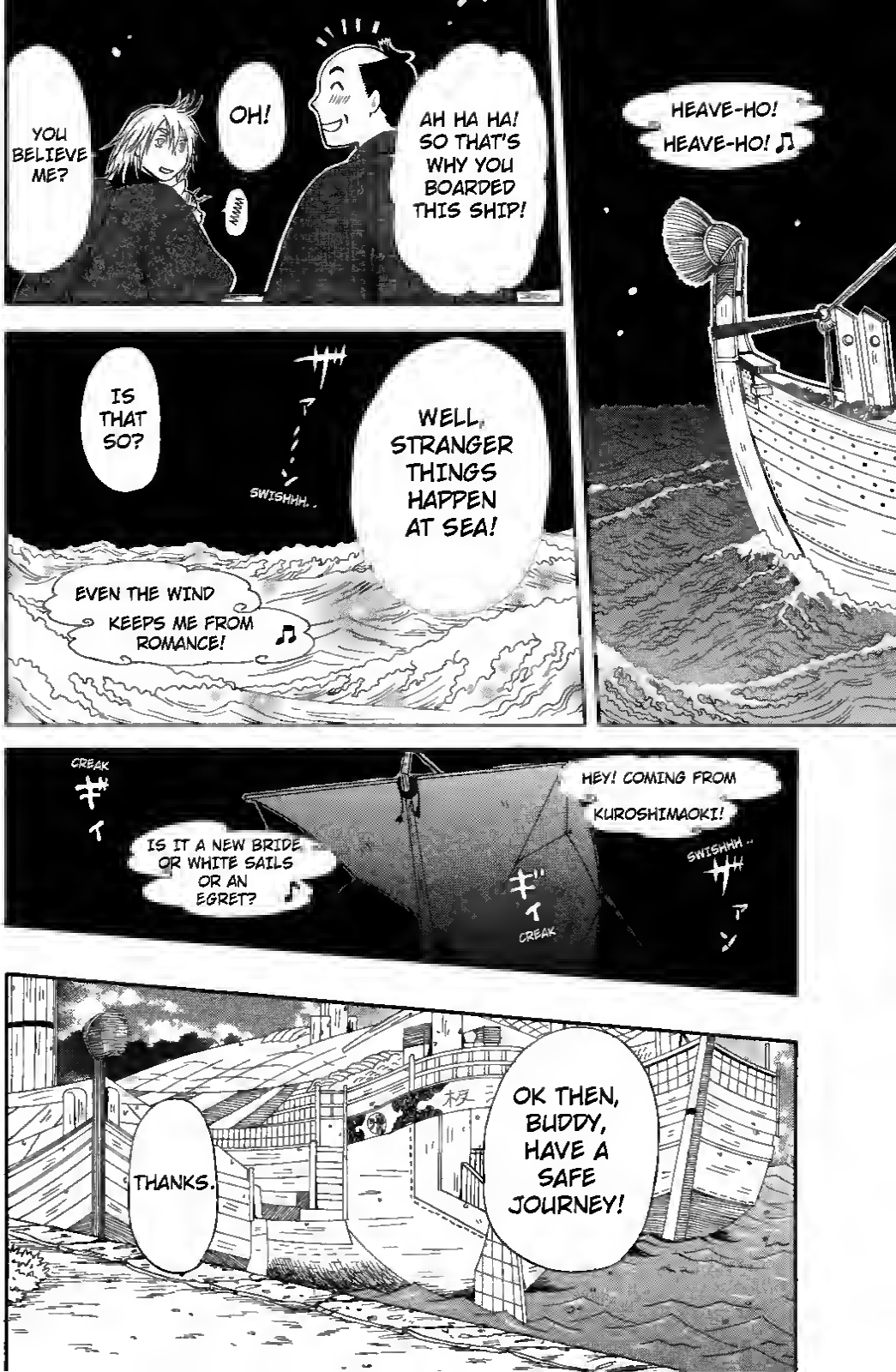

RUSTLE
がし
RUSTLE
がし
BOO HOO!
BOO HOO!
BOO HOO!

BOO HOO!
PLEASE TAKE HIM WITH YOU!
CURRENT PROPRIETOR
BOO HOO!
BOO HOO!
I SHALL GO TO THE MOUNTAIN.
BOO HOO!
WAHHH... DON'T GO!
PREVIOUS PROPRIETOR
BOO HOO! LUCKY!
BOO HOO!

YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE BRINGING THE FAMILY!
ALRIGHT, ENOUGH!
I GET IT, I GET IT!

ぴたっ
THEY ALL STOP CRYING
I'LL TAKE YOU WHEREVER YOU NEED TO GO.

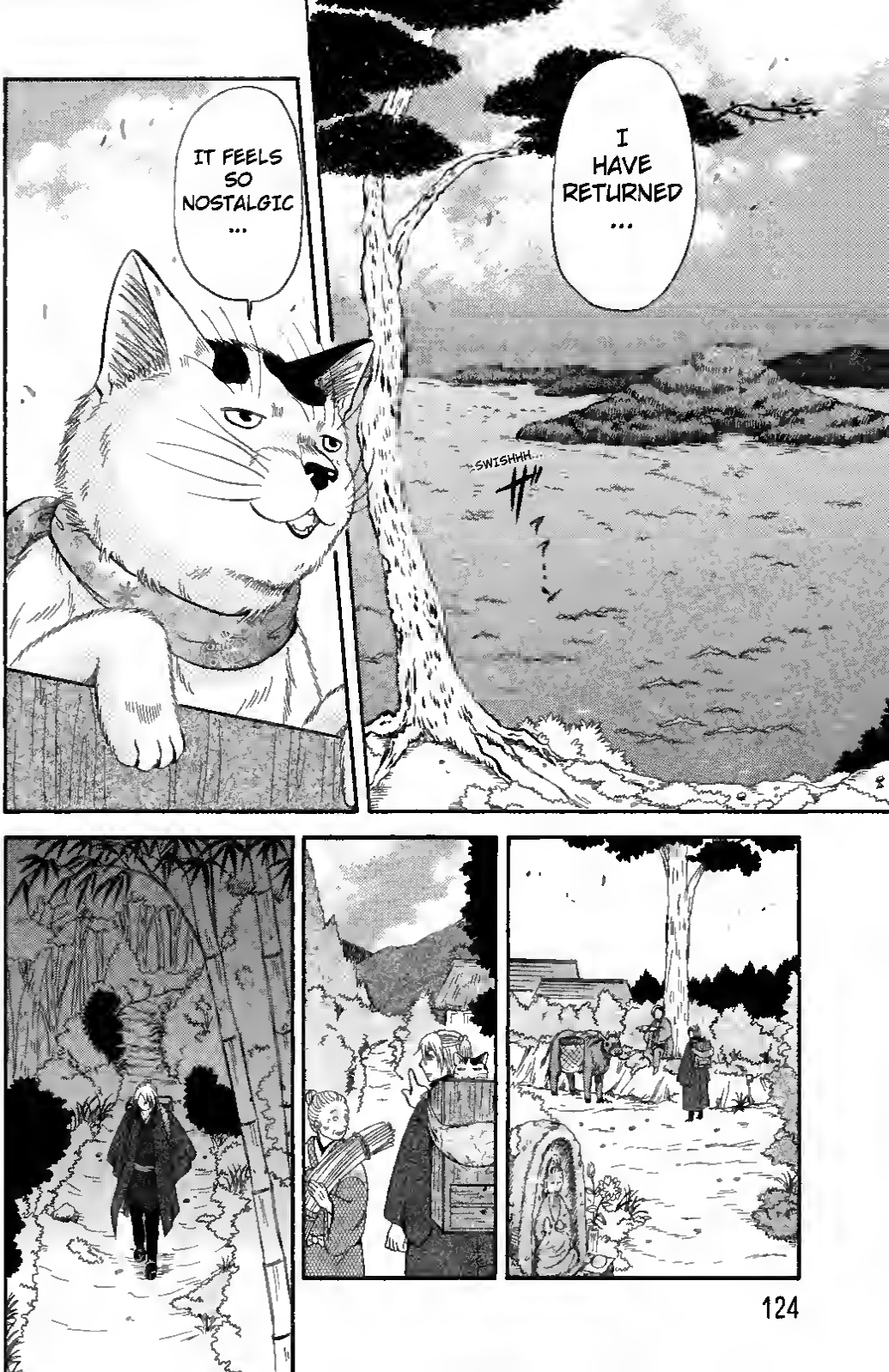
SIGN: YAMATO TAVERN
大和屋
IF YOU THINK IT HAS COME
THE BREEZE OF THE SOUTH WIND ONCE AGAIN...!

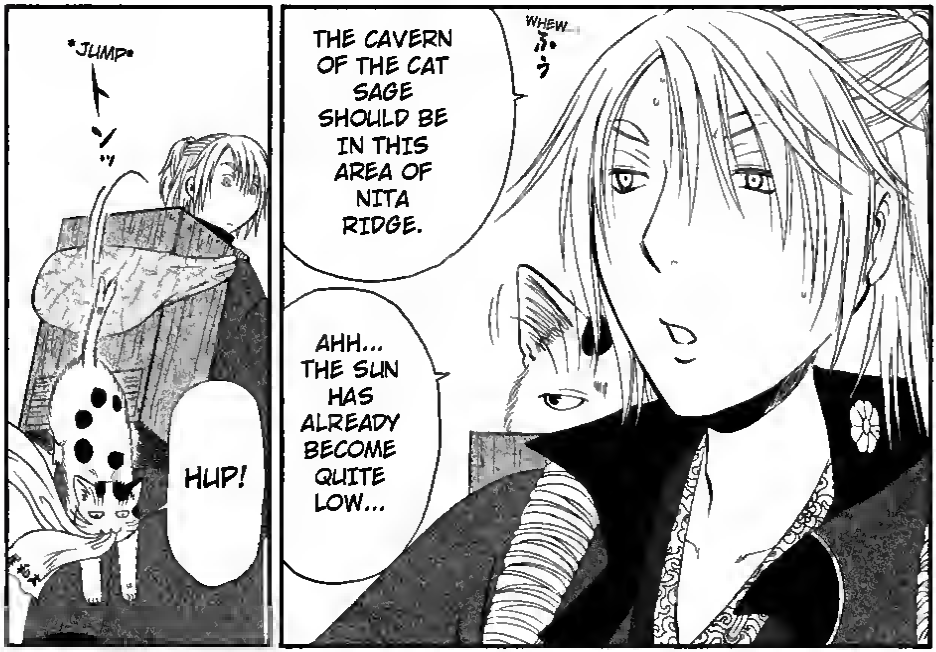

YOU BELIEVE ME?
OH!
HMMM
AH HA HA! SO THAT'S WHY YOU BOARDED THIS SHIP!
HEAVE-HO! HEAVE-HO!
IS THAT SO?
SWISHHH..
WELL, STRANGER THINGS HAPPEN AT SEA!
EVEN THE WIND KEEPS ME FROM ROMANCE!
CREAK
IS IT A NEW BRIDE OR WHITE SAILS OR AN EGRET?
HEY! COMING FROM KUROSHIMAOKI!
SWISHHH..
CREAK
THANKS.
OK THEN, BUDDY, HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY!

MOUSE DETER-RING CAT PAINT-INGS?
IF IT'S OK WITH YOU, PLEASE STICK THIS TO THE SHIP.
I PAINTED THIS WHEN I WAS IN THE MOOD.
AH ...
I KNOW ...
MOUSE DETERRING CAT PAINTINGS
HMM ...
IT WILL DEFINITELY WORK.
SEE YOU!
WHEN I'M NOT IN THE MOOD, THE PICTURE DOESN'T WORK AT ALL.
I'LL STICK IT HERE ...
PICH!
RATTLE!
BANG!
CLUNK!
SCRATCH SCRATCH

SQUEAK!
WOAH!
SQUEAK!!
RUMBLE!!
SQUEAK!!
WAAGH!!
WHAAAT!?
SQUEAK!
SQUEAK!
SQUEAK!
"MOVING IN DROVES"
THE MICE HAVE RUN AWAY!
IS THE SHIP SINKING?
"CHEEP"
"CHEEP"
WHA...
WHO IS THAT GUY ...?
WOW! WHAT A HUGE MORAY EEL!

IT'S ALRIGHT! IF YOU WALKED, THE SUN WOULD SET BEFORE WE GOT TO THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN!
HA HA!
SURE ...
SWISHHH..
I'M SORRY THAT I'M OCCUPYING THIS CARRY-BOX.
LIEK!!
うぷぷ
THE SWAYING WILL CALM DOWN IN A LITTLE WHILE.
AHH... IT STILL FEELS LIKE I'M ON THE SHIP...
SWISHHH..
SWISHHH..
SWISHHH..
THE BLUE OF THE SEA IS CLEARER AND DEEPER THAN USUAL
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN SO FAR SOUTH.
THE AIR AND THE SCENERY ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
YES.
IT SMELLS LIKE THE HOMETOWN IN MY MEMORIES ...


IT FEELS SO NOSTALGIC ...
I HAVE RETURNED ...
SWISHHH...



TOWEL: YAMATO TAVERN

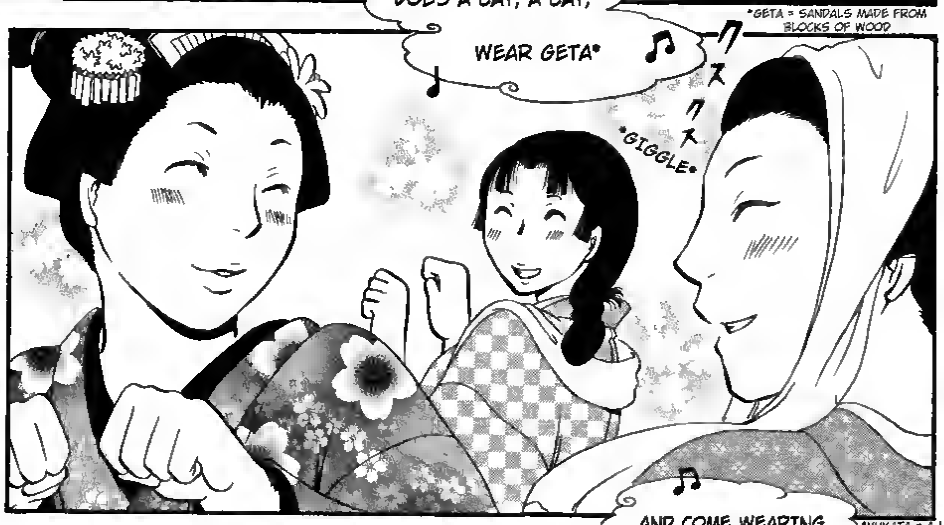
WOBBLE よった
WOBBLE よった
ズル DRAG
WOBBLE よった
WOBBLE よった
YES ...
TOWEL
YAMATO
TAVERN
和大
"ANNOYED" イラ
"ANNOYED" イラ
.....!
WOBBLE よった
WOBBLE よった
DRAG ズル
DRAG ズル
MEOW!
GET INSIDE!
PLEASE, JUST LET ME TAKE YOU!
AAARGH! YOU'RE SO DAMNED SLOW!!

WHY? IS HE GONNA EAT ME?
YES BUT... IF MASTER NITA APPEARS IT WILL BE A BIG PROBLEM...
SHADDUP! AT THE RATE YOU WERE GOING, YOU WOULDN'T EVEN GET THERE BY TOMORROW MORNING!
AHH... UMM... IF YOU DO THAT, IT'LL SOON BE NIGHT-TIME AND THAT'S DANGEROUS!
EVEN THE MUD TURTLE I SAW IN THE PAST WAS WAY FASTER THAN YOU!
WELL, THAT'S OK THEN.
NO, NO, ABSOLUTELY NOT! THOSE THAT BECOME SAGES DON'T EAT HUMANS.
LUCKY... YOU'VE BROUGHT A HUMAN WITH YOU.
HA HA HA!
STOP WHINING !!
NO, NO, IT'S JUST THAT,

MASTER NITA, PLEASE DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY...
NOT LONG AGO, YOU KNOCKED THAT BOY OUT.*
NYO-HO!
LOOKS LIKE THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME I'VE HAD ANY FUN IN A WHILE ...

*THE BOY WAS NISHIURA.

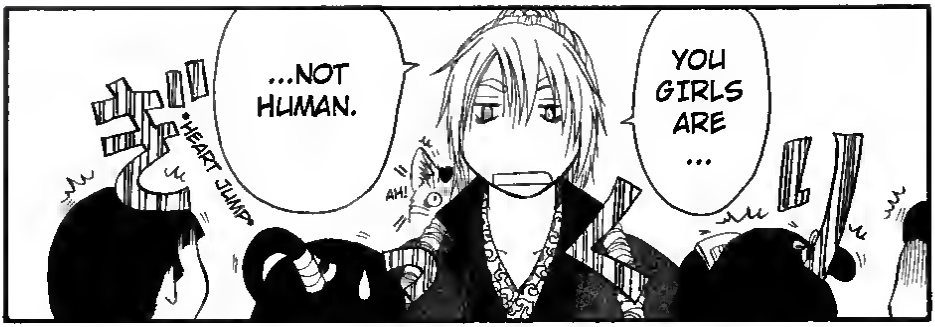
♪ "A CAT, A CAT!"
♩ YOU SAY BUT... ♫
AH HA HA HA!
ウフフ
AH HA HA HA!
ふはは
HA HA HA HA!
ハハハハ


DOES A CAT, A CAT,
WEAR GETA*
*GETA = SANDALS MADE FROM BLOCKS OF WOOD
クスクス
GIGGLE

AND COME WEARING A TIE-DYED YUKATA**?
*YUKATA = A LOOSE-FITTING KIMONO
PLINK PLINK
WHAT A CARELESS PERSON♫
WHAT IS THIS?
OH, A TRAVELER?
MAYBE HE LOST HIS WAY?
A NON-DRINKER, A NON-DRINKER...

WE HAVE LOTS OF DELICIOUS FOOD!
COME ON, COME ON, THIS WAY! PLEASE, TAKE A REST!
AH! HEY!
IT'S WONDEFUL YOU WERE ABLE TO COME ACROSS OUR FESTIVAL JUST WHEN YOU WERE LOST ON THE ROAD.
YAY!
きゃわ

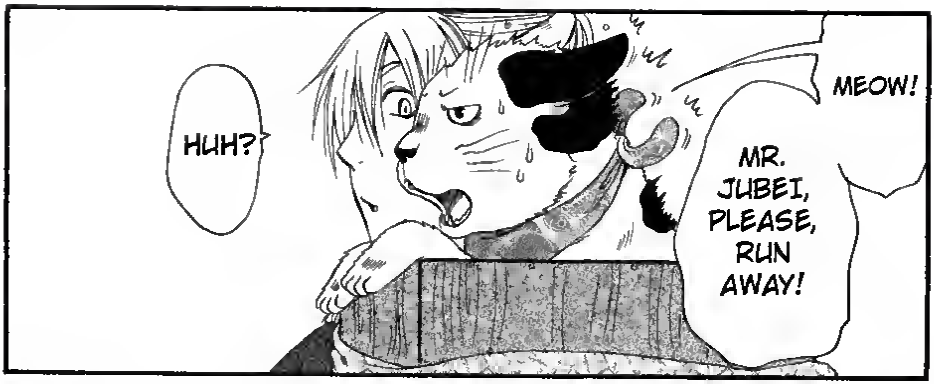
HOW ABOUT A RICE BALL?


YOU GIRLS ARE ...
...NOT HUMAN.
AH!
HEART JUMP

... TELL ME THERE'S SOMETHING A LITTLE STRANGE GOING ON HERE.

MY EYES AND EARS ...
OH HO HO!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
DON'T SAY THAT!

HOW UNFORTUNATE.


HUH?
MEOW!
MR. JUBEI, PLEASE, RUN AWAY!

PTCH!
!

UMM... THAT IS NOT RICE...
WHOOSH!
SHOOM!
WHAT !?
WHOOSH!

WHOOSH!
WOAH !!

DON'T WASTE RICE!!
WHOOSH!
WHOOSH!

WOW... IF IT HITS YOU, YOU GROW FLUFFY CAT'S FUR.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT SOONER !?
FLUFFY
ふさふさ～
HUH !?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
I DON'T WANNA BE A CAT!!
WHOOSH!
WHOOSH!
IF YOU EAT IT OR SPREAD IT ALL OVER YOUR WHOLE BODY YOU WILL BECOME LIKE A LOVELY CAT ...
GRAB
TSK!
NYO HO HO HO!
NYA NYA NYA!
NYA HA HA HA!

BAM!
OH!
THAT'LL TEACH YA!
AH... UMM...

WAKE UP!
THAT'S MASTER NITA ...
HMM... THE CAT SAGE IS A FEMALE?
MASTER NITA

EAT THIS!
EEK!
SMACK!
SHOOM!

UMM... I WONDER...
MASTER NITA CAN CHANGE INTO LOTS OF THINGS
I'M A MALE!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ALREADY, LUCKY?

OW OW OW ...
TO RAISE YOUR HAND AGAINST A CAT SAGE... YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE, YOU FOOLISH HUMAN!
SHUT UP, YOU STUPID CAT!
YOU'RE THE ONE PLAYING THOSE DIRTY TRICKS!
DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS CAT'S FUR GROWING ON ME!

FWISHHH
.....
HOW TEDIOUS ...
あぎ
FWOOSH
SO TEDIOUS ...
FWOOSH
BE MORE SURPRISED, HUMAN!
NO, I AM QUITE SURPRISED.
THEN MAKE A SURPRISED FACE!!
MRAOOOW!
にゃ
ぎゃ
THAT DOESN'T AMUSE ME AT ALL!!
WOAH!
HE'S HUGE!
ポ
PUFF!
ポ
PUFF!
ポ

BUT HUMAN'S STARTLED FACES ARE SO AMUSING !!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE TALKED SO MUCH WITH ONE, THOUGH . . .
EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT, I OFTEN SEE NEKOMATA, EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE KID.

CRASH!
IS HE REALLY A CAT SAGE?
MASTER NITA, SHALL WE GO BACK NOW...?
BANG!
IT'S ALREADY BEEN FOUND OUT
BOOM!
IT MUST BE TOUGH FOR THE NEKOMATA TO HAVE SOMEONE LIKE THAT AS THEIR LEADER...

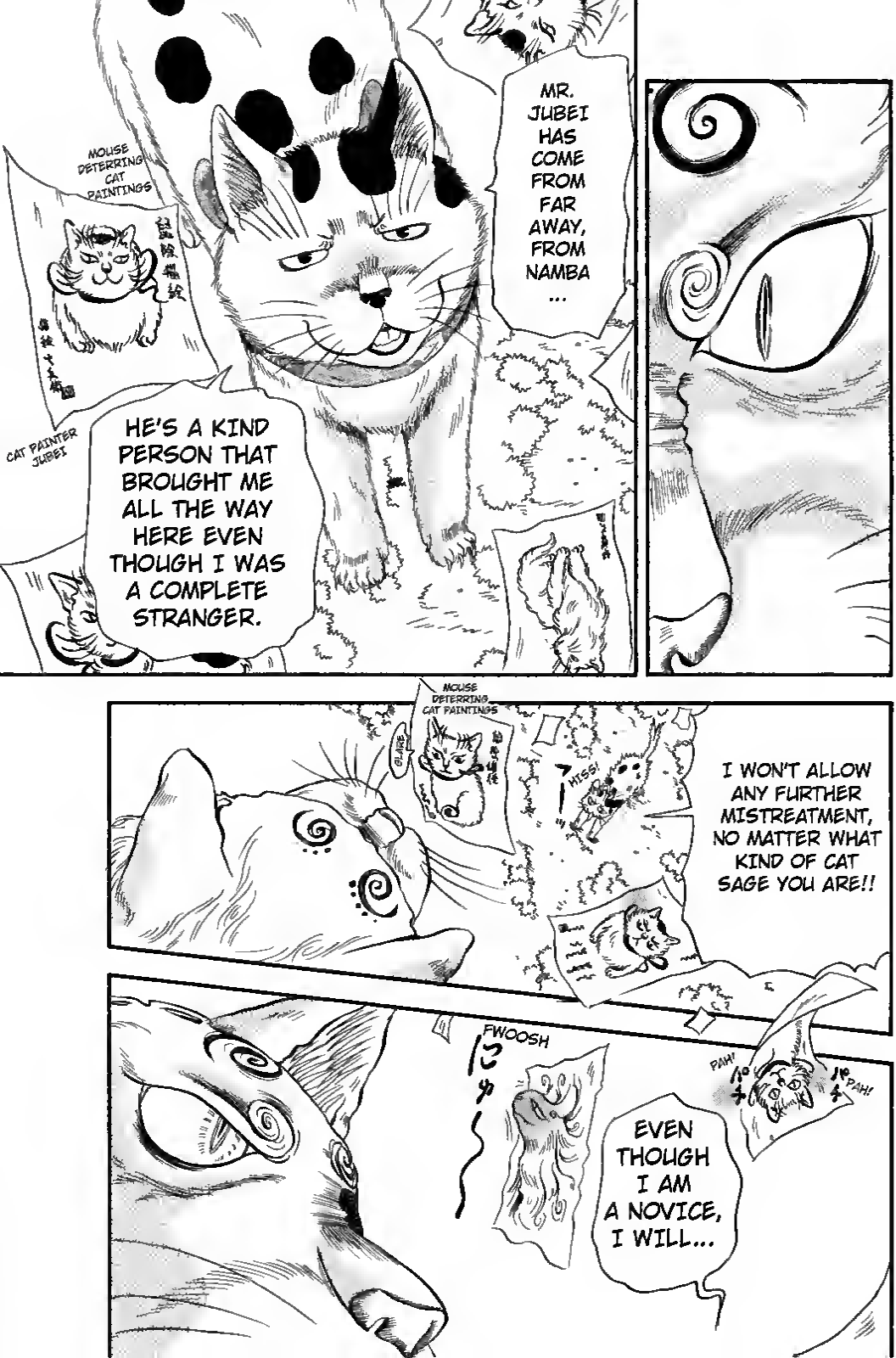
THIS ISN'T FUNNY AT ALL!
SMASH!
AH... HE'S LOST IT!

CRASH!!
SIGH
"LITTLE" TRICKS !?
AH... HE'S A GOOD LEADER BUT HE LIKES TO PLAY LITTLE TRICKS, WHICH CAUSES PROBLEMS FOR US...

MR. JUBEI ...
SWOOSH!
WOAH!
KRTCH!
RIP!
SWOOOSH!!
RIP!!
WAAGH!!

MOUSE DETERRING CAT PAINTINGS
DAMMIT! MY PRECIOUS MERCH-ANDISE!
にょほほほ
NYO HOHOHO!
UMM... ARE YOU OK?
YEAH ...
ぽらーい
SHOOM!
RIP!
GAAAAGH!!
KRSSSHHHH...

NYO HO! ONE MORE TIME!
AHH... UMM... PLEASE, STOP.


MOUSE DETERRING CAT PAINTINGS
CAT PAINTER JUBEI
HE'S A KIND PERSON THAT BROUGHT ME ALL THE WAY HERE EVEN THOUGH I WAS A COMPLETE STRANGER.
MR. JUBEI HAS COME FROM FAR AWAY, FROM NAMBA ...
MOUSE DETERRING CAT PAINTINGS
CLAWS
HISS!
I WON'T ALLOW ANY FURTHER MISTREATMENT, NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF CAT SAGE YOU ARE!!
FWOOSH
にゃー
PAH!
PAH!
EVEN THOUGH I AM A NOVICE, I WILL...

HISS!
HISS!!
HISS!
...BE YOUR OPPONENT!!
HISS!
HISS!!

HISS!
THE PICTURES ARE...
HISS!
GRRRR!!

MEOW ?
THAT IS SO AMUSING !!
HA HA HA!

HMM.
THE SOUL THAT YOU UNKNOWINGLY PUT INTO THEM STARTS TO MOVE WHEN COMING INTO CONTACT WITH THE SPIRIT ENERGY OF A NEKOMATA.

JUBEI, YOU CAN PUT YOUR SOUL INTO PAINTINGS?
MEOW!
HUH? I DON'T KNOW ABOUT SOULS BUT THEY DON'T MOVE EVEN WHEN THE MICE RUN AWAY.

SNIFF
SNIFF
TOO CLOSE!
TOO CLOSE!
DON'T COME NEAR ME! DON'T SNIFF ME!
MEOW

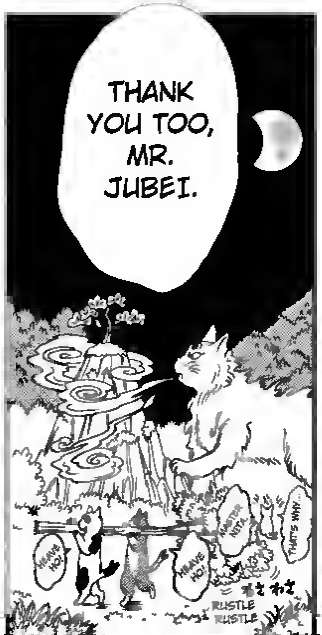
SLURP!
EWW!
YEAH ...
SO THAT'S WHY LUCKY CHOSE YOU...
YOU ...
...HAVE THE DIVINE PROTECTION OF CATS.
FINALLY, YOU MADE A FUNNY FACE!
NYO HO HO!
OH!
THE CAT FUR DISAPP-EARED!
HUP!
YOU ARE VERY STRANGE.
YOU WERE AWARE OF THAT ...?

ぐったり
WEAKENED
HUFF PUFF
YEAH, YEAH ...
ARE YOU LISTENING?
LUCKY!
MASTER NITA! IF YOU HADN'T BROKEN IT, WE WOULDN'T NEED TO GO THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF FIXING IT!
WELL, IT'S A HASSLE, BUT SHALL WE FIX WHAT WAS BROKEN?
THUD THUD
HEY, BE STRONG!
I... I'M FINE ...
PHEW... YOU SCARED ME...
YOU'RE UNBELIEVABLE...!
YEAH ...
AH ...
I'M OUT OF BREATH
IT'S JUST THAT IT'S THE FIRST TIME IN 15 YEARS THAT I YELLED SO QUICKLY ...
HUFF
HUFF

THANK YOU...
LUCKY.

HEY, HO! WAITING AT NIGHT
HA! HA! HA!
HAVE SOME FISH TOO!
THIS TIME YOU WON'T CHANGE INTO A CAT!
HERE, HAVE SOME SAKE!

ALRIGHT, NEXT WE CELEBRATE LUCKY COMING TO THE MOUNTAIN!
お
YAY...!

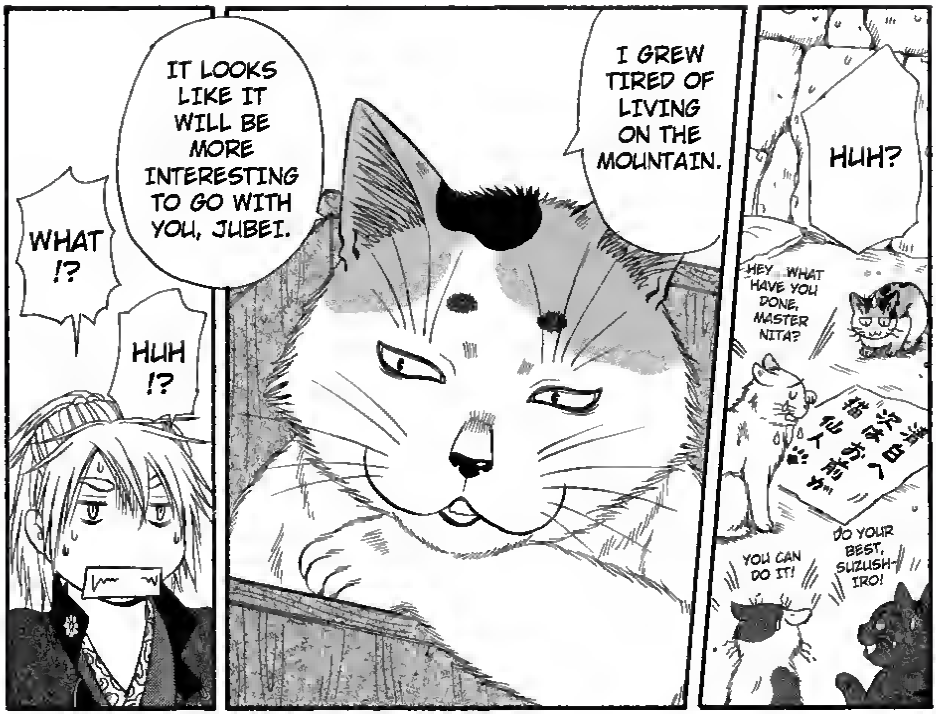

THANK YOU TOO, MR. JUBEI.
HOHO HO!
SHAKE SHAKE
SHAKE HO!
SHAKE
RUSTLE RUSTLE

HOW IS IT?
ARE YOU HAVING FUN?
THAT'S WHAT THE TOWEL'S FOR?
UP AND DOWN HEAVE-HO
ON THE PINE HANDLES, HEY!
WAITING AT NIGHT FOR
PINE FROM KUROSHIMA, HEY!
HEAVE-HO! HEAVE-HO!
にゃはは
NYA HA HA!
HEY, ON THE RIVERBANK
IF YOU WAKE IT UP,
IT'S A CRAB!
TOWEL
YAMATO TAVERN
大和屋
THIS IS JUST MY HUMAN FORM.
YOU'RE MORE SURPRISED THAN BEFORE!
WOAH!! THIS TIME, IT'S A MALE!?
YES, REALLY.
OH REALLY?
YES?
MASTER NITA...
.....

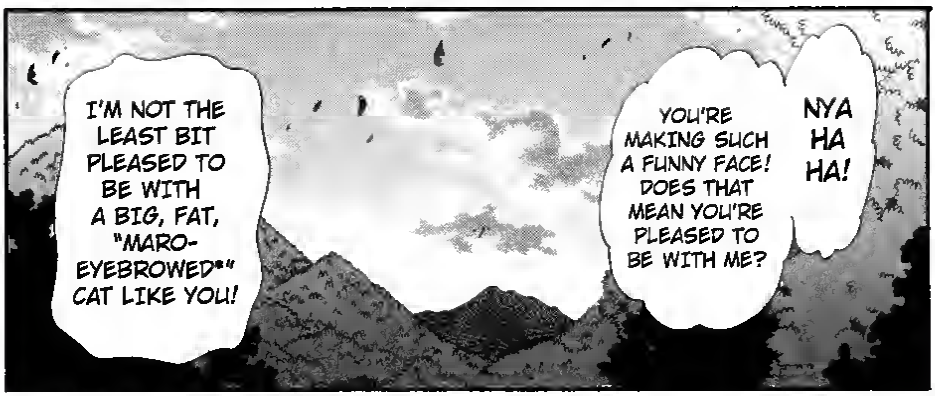
*OFTEN EATEN IN JAPAN ** JAPANESE LIQUOR

AH... IT WOULD BE GOOD TO HAVE SOME RAW CHICKEN* AND SOME SHOUCHUU**!
SINCE I CAME ALL THE WAY HERE, I SHOULD GO FURTHER SOUTH, TO OOSUMI.
I WANT TO GO TAKACHIHO IN HYUGA TOO

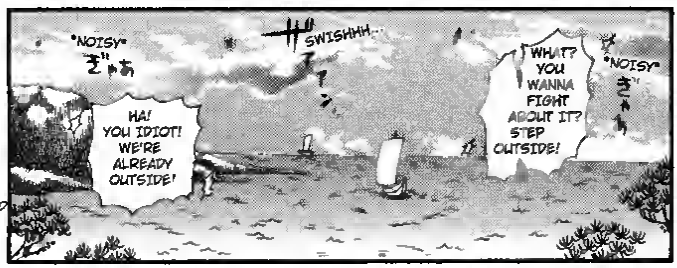
OPENS BOX
ぱっ
カン
SO IT'S YOUR FAULT THAT THIS THING IS SO HEAVY!?
.....
.....
AH!
みっちり
SQUEEZED INTO THE BOX
"WHAT", YOU ASK? I RETIRED FROM BEING THE CAT SAGE OF NITA RIDGE TO COME WITH YOU!
SHALL I TEAR OFF YOUR WHISKERS!
WELL, YOU CERTAINLY HAVE HIS VOICE, BUT WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?
OW, OW! IT'S ME, NITA!
WHO IS THIS GREAT BIG CAT!?
THIS IS MY NORMAL CAT FORM!
みぁ〜〜ん
STRETCH


I GREW TIRED OF LIVING ON THE MOUNTAIN.
IT LOOKS LIKE IT WILL BE MORE INTERESTING TO GO WITH YOU, JUBEI.
WHAT !?
HUH !?
HUH?
HEY... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, MASTER NITA?
DO YOUR BEST, SUZUSHIRO!
YOU CAN DO IT!

NOTE: SUZUSHIRO, YOU ARE THE NEXT CAT SAGE.


I'M NOT THE LEAST BIT PLEASED TO BE WITH A BIG, FAT, "MARO-EYEBROWED*" CAT LIKE YOU!
YOU'RE MAKING SUCH A FUNNY FACE! DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE PLEASED TO BE WITH ME?
NYA HA HA!

*"MARO" STYLE EYEBROWS - POPULAR IN THE HEIAN ERA, WHERE THE REAL EYEBROWS WERE SHAVED OFF AND REPLACED WITH BLACK CIRCLES PAINTED ONTO THE FACE. THE MARKINGS ON NITA'S FACE RESEMBLE THIS STYLE



WITH THAT, THE MAN AND THE CAT CONTINUED TO FIGHT AS THEY HEADED SOUTH.

第二十三話 完

END OF CHAPTER 23

猫絵十兵衛

ねこえじゅうべえおとぎそうし

御伽草紙

TALES OF A CAT PAINTER

師走猫(しわすねこ)の巻

DECEMBER CAT

MANZAI: A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE PERFORMANCE.

BANG BANG
デン♫
デン♪
EVERY YEAR
CLACK! CLACK!
ジャッ♪

COME ALONG COME ALONG.
CLACK!
CLACK!
デデン♫
BANG
BANG
デン♫
CLACK!
BANG
デン♫
BANG, BANG
デデン♫
THE END OF YEAR HAS COME.
CLACK!

QUIT PLAYING AROUND AND HELP!
バサ
RUSTLE
バサ
RUSTLE
EEK!
きゃー
BANG BANG
デデン♪
BANG
デン♫
THE END OF THE YEAR HAS COME.
CLACK CLACK
ジャッ ジャッ♫

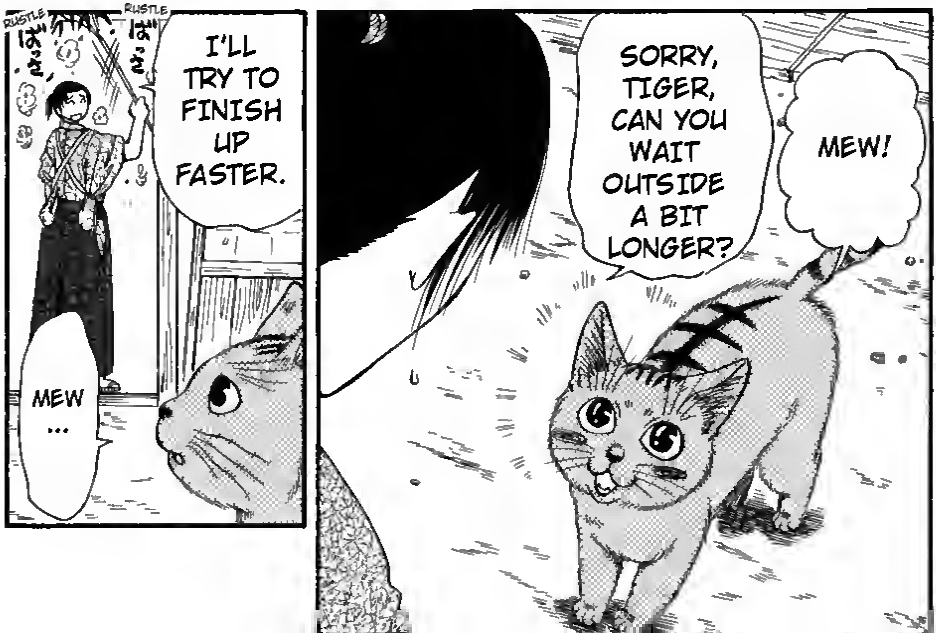
AH, SEKI-ZORO*, EH?
EVERY YEAR
BANG BANG
WOOSH
IT FULLY FEELS LIKE THE END OF THE YEAR.
THEY'RE EVEN CLEANING UP HERE,
HEY, ARE YOU CLEANING UP HERE TOO?
YAY, DAD!
HEY, BRING THE TATAMI OUT.
OKAY, GOT IT!
NITA …
WHAT'S ALL THIS CAREFREE STUFF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?

*SEKIZORO = SINGERS WHO SANG AT THE END OF THE YEAR IN THE TOWN AND RECEIVED MONEY

WE'D HAVE PROBLEMS IF DUST GOT IN THE CAT PAINTINGS, WOULDN'T WE!?
YOU CAN'T CHANGE THIS DUMP JUST BY CLEANING IT.
WHY, JUBEI ?
WE DO THIS EVERY YEAR!
WE'VE GOT OUR OWN END OF YEAR CLEANING TO DO!
トントン TAP TAP
GRRR
WELL, MAYBE YOU WOULD ...
にょほほ NYO HO HO!
WOOSH
NYO HO..
GET OUTTA HERE!!

YOU TOO, MIMIMARU. WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT IN THE COLD?
MEW!
HEY, TIGER!
MEW!
GEEZ, HE TAKES HIS PAINTINGS SO SERI-OUSLY...
MEEEE OW
MEW .....
ドゥスン
THUMP

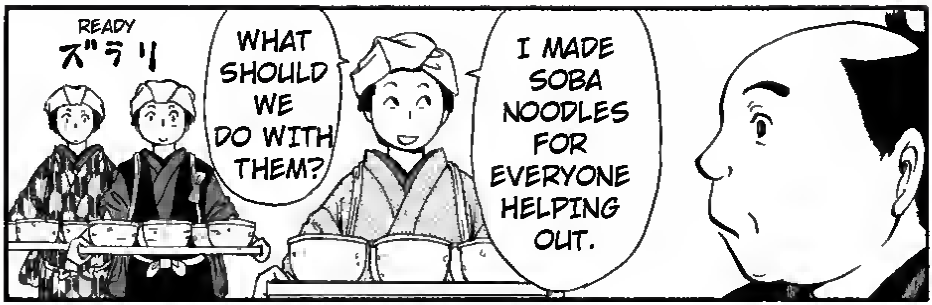
HEY, SORRY!
YOU'RE SO LITTLE I DIDN'T NOTICE.
SORRY I STARTLED YOU.
...

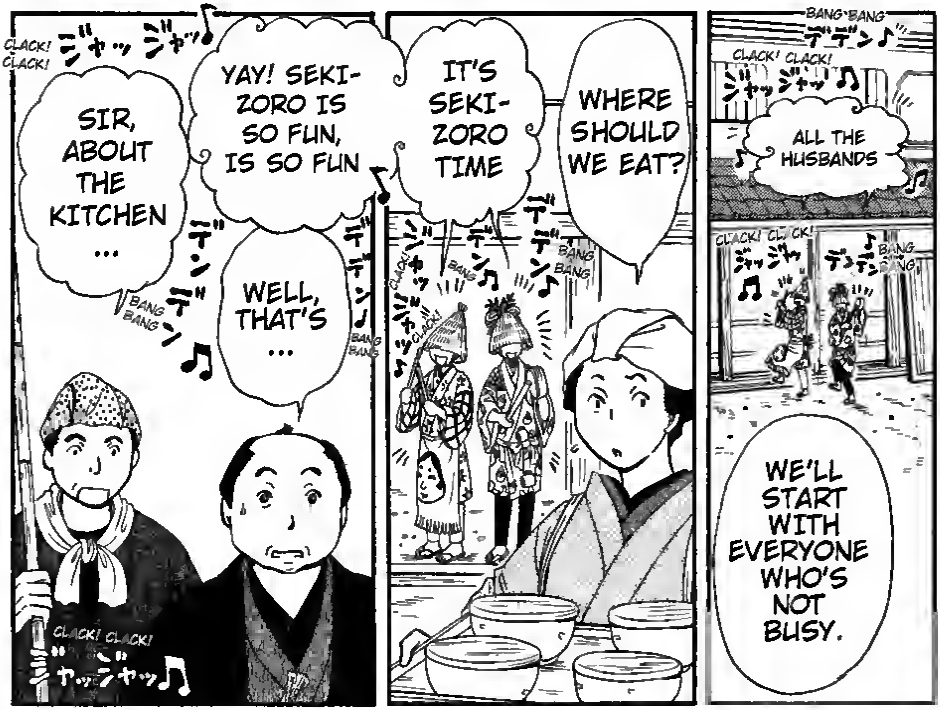

RUSTLE ばさ
RUSTLE ばさ
I'LL TRY TO FINISH UP FASTER.
MEW ...
SORRY, TIGER, CAN YOU WAIT OUTSIDE A BIT LONGER?
MEW!

"DUST FALLING DOWN"
パラ
パラ
"DUST FALLING DOWN"
CAN'T BE HELPED.
YASA-BUROU, TOO?
"SNEEZE"
にゃふっ
MEOW.
LET'S GO TO KURO'S HOUSE.
SASUKE DOESN'T DO END OF YEAR CLEAN-ING.
MEW!
うにゃ
SASUKE IS SLEEPING AGAIN.
OH IT'S WARM
MEW!
MEOW.
SASU-KEEE!!
ドンドン
KNOCK
KNOCK
ZZZ
ぐか〜っ

BOW
ペコ…
L-LADY …
I MEAN OMOTO.
GOOD DAY …
I CAME TO HELP WITH THE CLEANING.
"STARTLED"
ガバッ
ARE YOU THERE?
CL…
CLEANING? I'VE NEVER REALLY DONE THAT.
WELL THAT'S NO GOOD!
THE END OF YEAR CLEANING IS VERY IMPORTANT. WE DO IT TO CLEAN THE FILTH FROM OUR HOUSES AND HAVE A NEW YEAR IN A CLEAN PLACE.
IT'S DISRESPECTFUL TO THE GODS OF THE NEW YEAR!

"CHATTER"
わい
"CHATTER"
わい
RUSTLE RUSTLE
BANG BANG
HEY, DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHE IS?
PAH
THUMP
THUMP
PAH
SHE TOOK GONZOU AND WENT TO HELP CLEAN A FRIEND'S HOUSE.
IS IT OK TO NOT HELP OUT AT THE STORE...
LET'S JUST DO IT SWIFTLY THEN.
GONZOU, BRING OUT THE TOWEL AND CASUAL KIMONOS.
THERE'S LOTS OF PEOPLE HELPING. MY BROTHER, STORE EMPLOYEES AND CONSTRUCTION WORKERS THAT PATRONIZE THE SHOP.
DON'T WORRY.
OMOTO ...
SIGN GENERAL STORE
WHILE WE'RE SO BUSY LIKE THIS!?
SHE LEFT SAYING "I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO YOU, BROTHER", DAD.
EXCUSE ME, SIR...
BUT IF SHE ISN'T HERE...
SHE'S ALWAYS HELPING IN THE STORE, AFTER ALL.
IT'S OKAY FROM TIME TO TIME, ISN'T IT?


READY
ズラリ
WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THEM?
I MADE SOBA NOODLES FOR EVERYONE HELPING OUT.

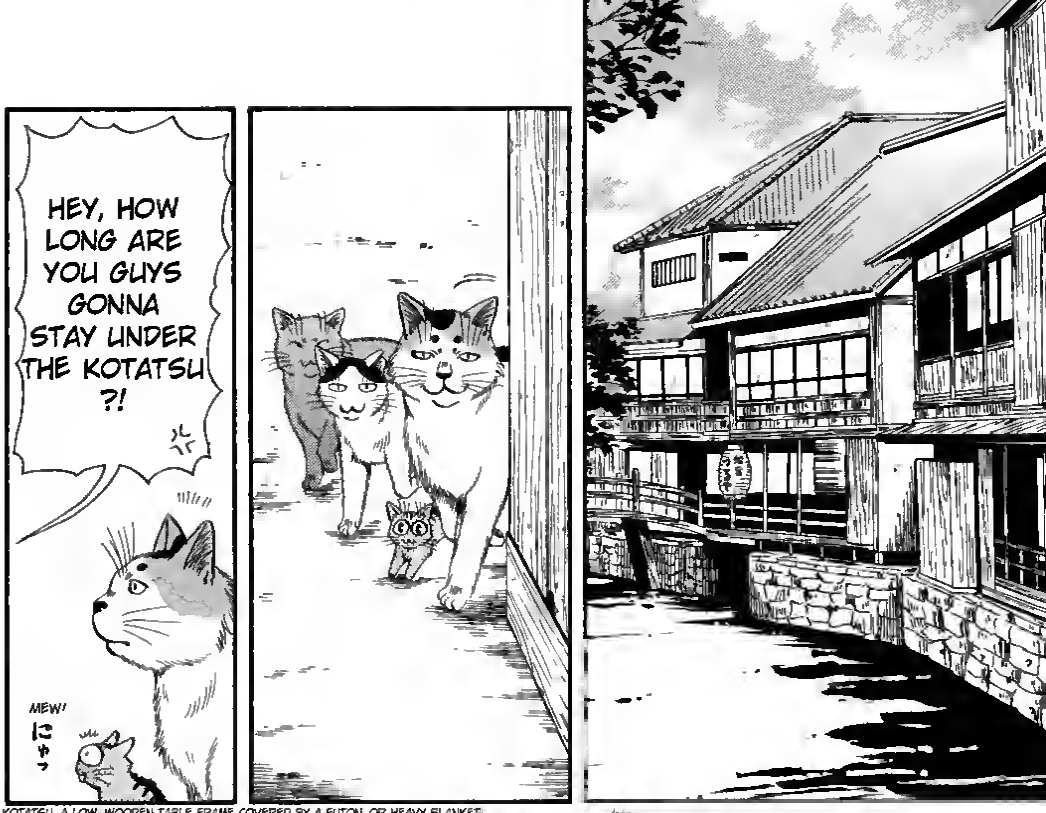

CLACK! CLACK!
ジャッ ジャッ♪
SIR, ABOUT THE KITCHEN …
YAY! SEKI-ZORO IS SO FUN, IS SO FUN
WELL, THAT'S …
BANG BANG
デンデン♪
CLACK! CLACK!
ジャッジャッ♪
IT'S SEKI-ZORO TIME
WHERE SHOULD WE EAT?
BANG BANG
デンデン♪
BANG BANG
デン♪
CLACK! CLACK!
ジャッジャッ♪
ALL THE HUSBANDS
BANG BANG
デンデン♪
WE'LL START WITH EVERYONE WHO'S NOT BUSY.

CAN YOU PAY THEM FIRST?
CLACK! CLACK!
ジャッ ジャッ♪
CLACK!
BE QUIET!
OKAY.
…
BANG
デン♪
BANG BANG
デンデン♪
SEKIZORO IS SO FUN, IS SO FUN
IT'S SEKI-ZORO TIME!
CLACK! CLACK!
ジャッ ジャッ♪
BANG BANG BANG
デンデンデン♪

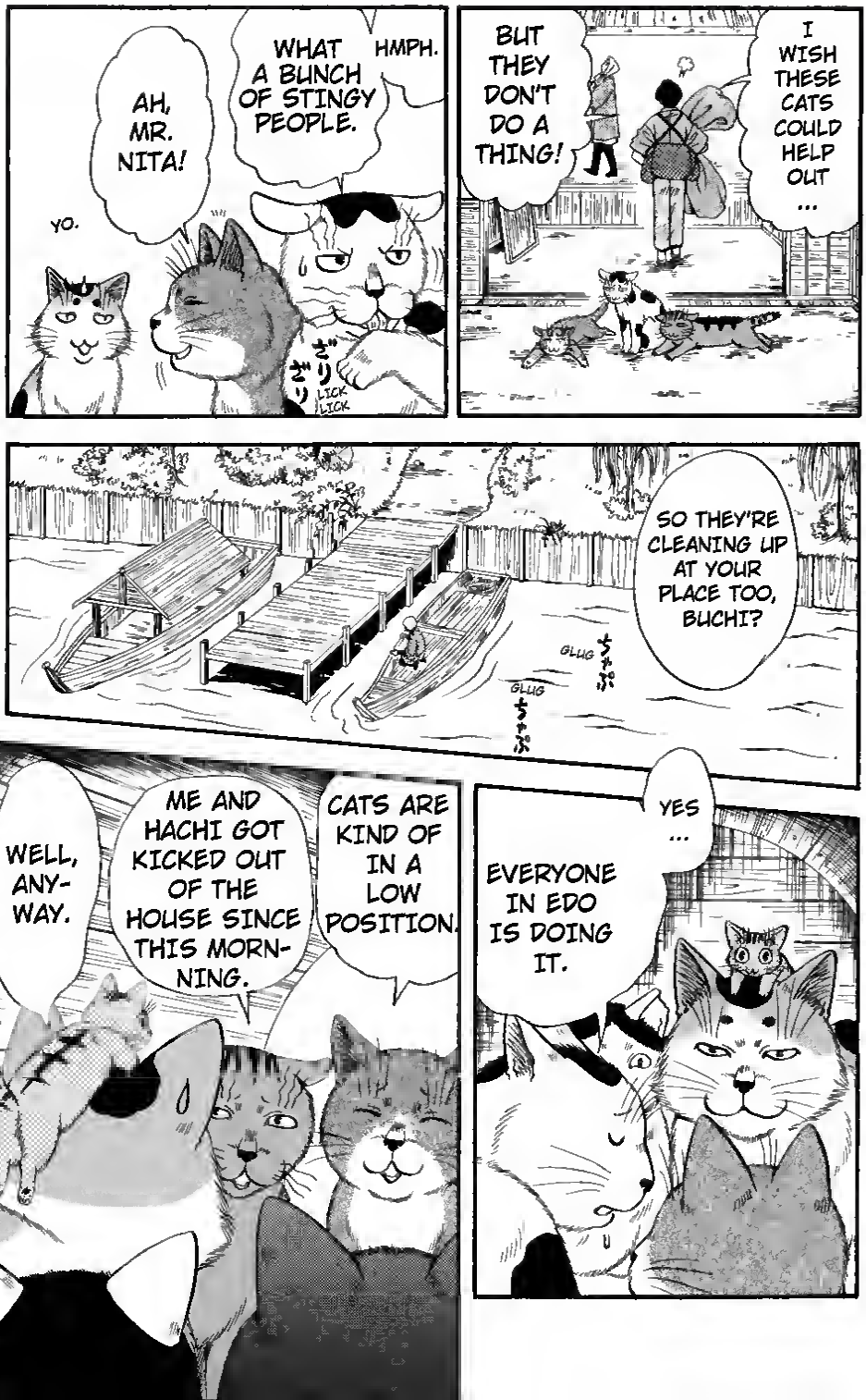
LAY DOWN THE MAT FOR THE SOBA IN THE NEXT ROOM THE KITCHEN...
WELL, WELL ...
OTOMO ...
UP UNTIL NOW OMOTO HAD ALWAYS SUPER-VISED THE CLEANING ...
SEKIZORO~
BANG BANG
THANK YOU!
がた がた
THUMP THUMP
BANG BANG
バサ
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
HAPH—
ぼふん
"DUST FALLING DOWN"
COUGH COUGH
SORRY IT'S SO DIRTY!
A... ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE.
BRUSH
BRUSH

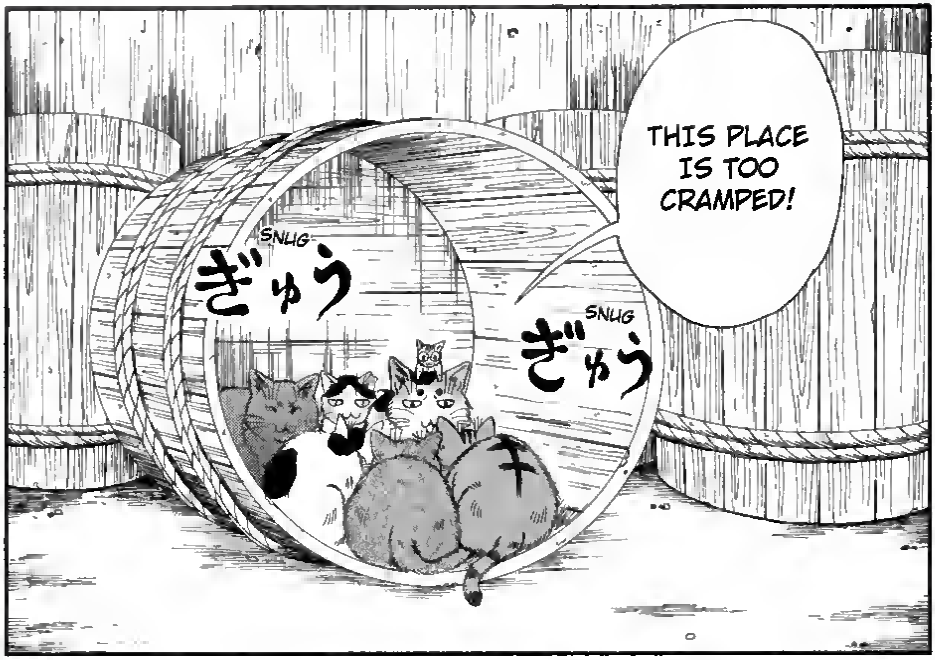
H-HEH, IT'S LIKE YOU RUN THE PLACE!
へへっ HEH HEH!
WITH YOU DOING THIS ...
バサ RUSTLE RUSTLE
.....
OW THAT HURTS ...
"PINCH" つね
THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKING ...
NO, NO, SASUKE ...
TSK! けっ
MEW? にゃ

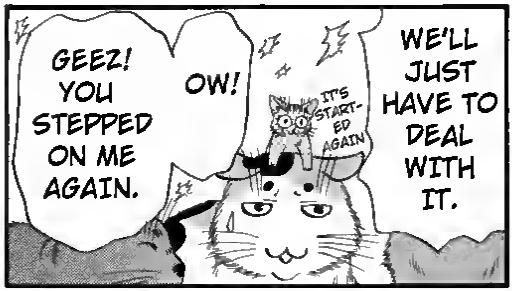
AH, WE'VE GOT TO PUT THE GRILL OUTSIDE, TOO.
HEE HEE でれれ～
SCRAM, YOU GUYS!
MEOW ...
WOOSH
THIS GRILL IS NO GOOD WHEN IT'S SO WINDY!
BRR! ぶるっ
BRRR ぶるる
I'M OUTTA HERE.
HE'S GOT PLENTY OF ROOM AT HIS PLACE.
MEW!
MEOW.

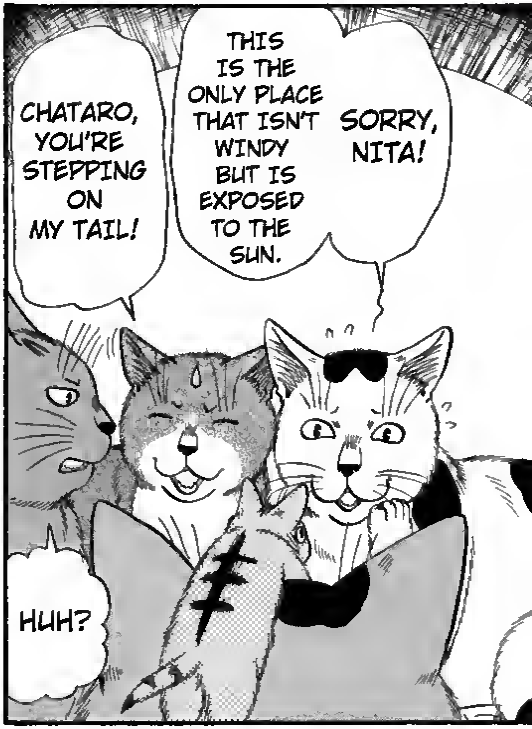


KOTATSU: A LOW WOODEN TABLE FRAME COVERED BY A FUTON OR HEAVY BLANKET, UPON WHICH A TABLE TOP SITS. UNDERNEATH IS A HEAT SOURCE, OFTEN BUILT INTO THE TABLE ITSELF.


AH, MR. NITA!
WHAT A BUNCH OF STINGY PEOPLE.
HMPH.
YO.
ざり LICK
ざり LICK
BUT THEY DON'T DO A THING!
I WISH THESE CATS COULD HELP OUT ...
SO THEY'RE CLEANING UP AT YOUR PLACE TOO, BUCHI?
GLUG ちゃぷ
GLUG ちゃぷ
YES ...
EVERYONE IN EDO IS DOING IT.
CATS ARE KIND OF IN A LOW POSITION.
ME AND HACHI GOT KICKED OUT OF THE HOUSE SINCE THIS MORN-NING.
WELL, ANY-WAY.


THIS PLACE IS TOO CRAMPED!
SNUG
ぎゅう
SNUG
ぎゅう

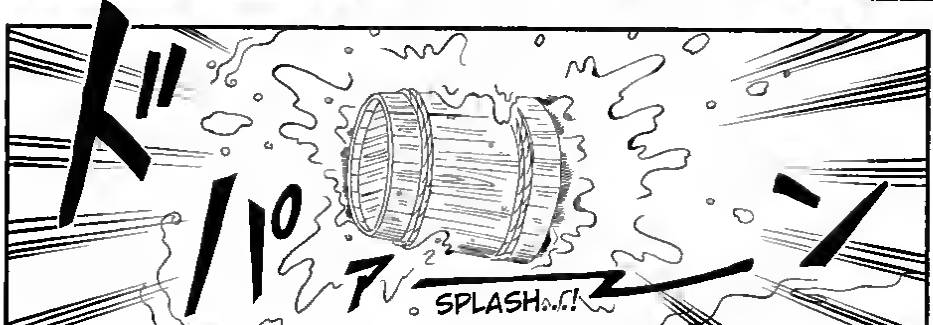

GEEZ! YOU STEPPED ON ME AGAIN.
OW!
IT'S START-ED AGAIN
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT.


CHATARO, YOU'RE STEPPING ON MY TAIL!
THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE THAT ISN'T WINDY BUT IS EXPOSED TO THE SUN.
SORRY, NITA!
HUH?

NO, YOU ARE!
SHUT UP, YOU'RE TOO LOUD!

HUH !?
HEY, HEY!
RAWR !!
SNARL !!
フシャー
RAWRRRR
THUMP
IF YOU KEEP GETTING RAMBUNCTIOUS LIKE THAT...
ガッ
THUMP
HEY ...!!
ROLL ごろ
ROLL ごろ
ROLL ごろ
ROLL ごろ
ROLL ごろ
ROLL ごろ
HEY ...
ごろん
ROLL
HEY ...

HUH?


ドバーン
SPLASH...!!

ぷかぁ
SPLOOOSH

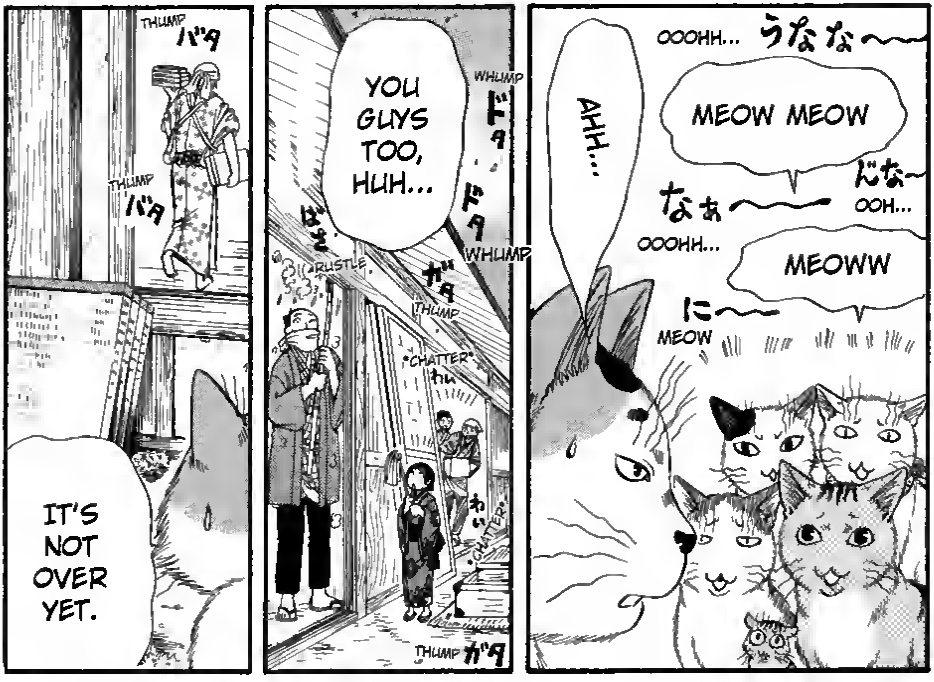
WHOA, THE CATS ARE ...
GULP!
ゴォオウ
SWOOOSH

ゴォオォ
SWOOSH
WHAT THE ...!?

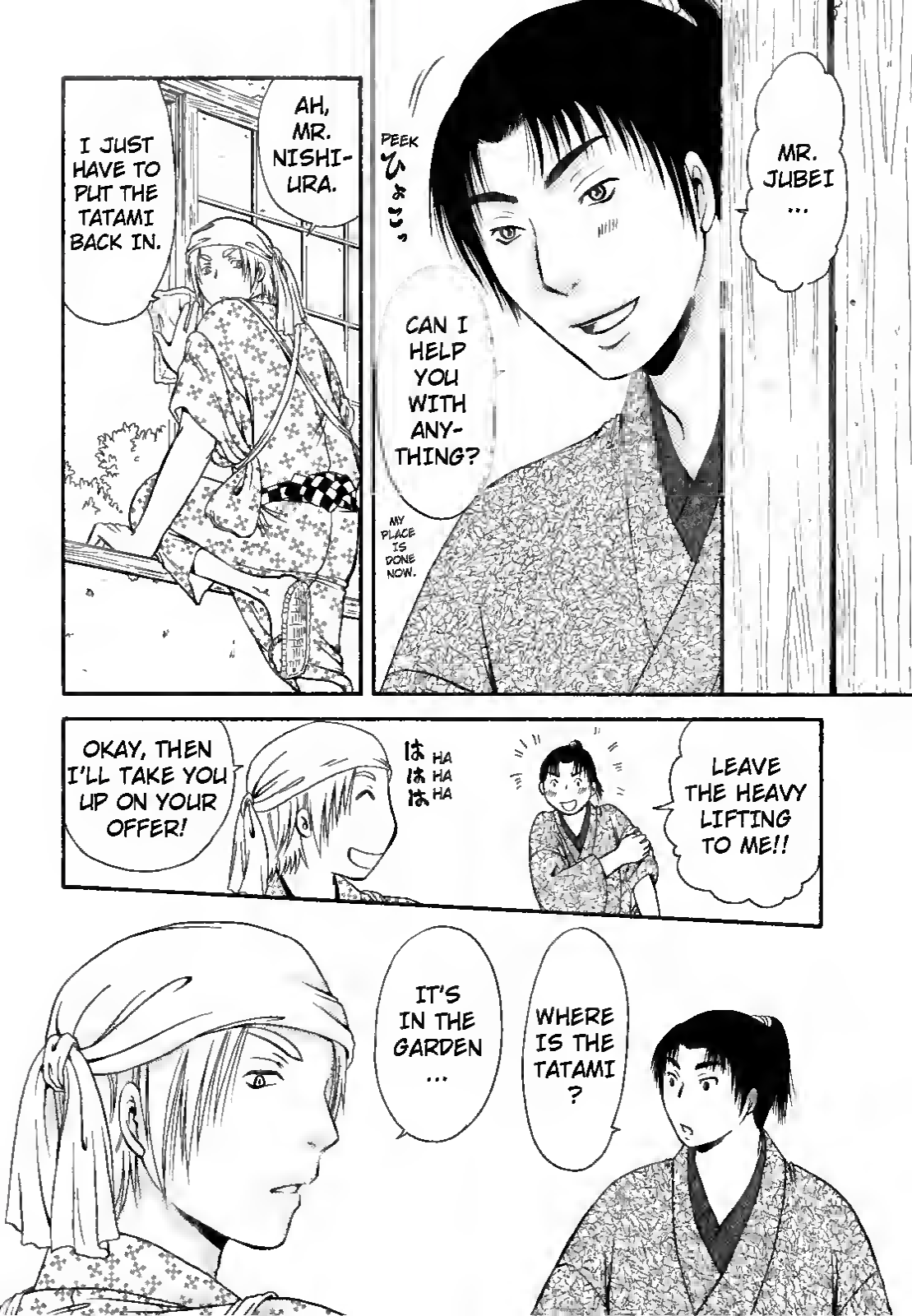
ゴォン
SWOOSH
SWIRL
ゴゥウ

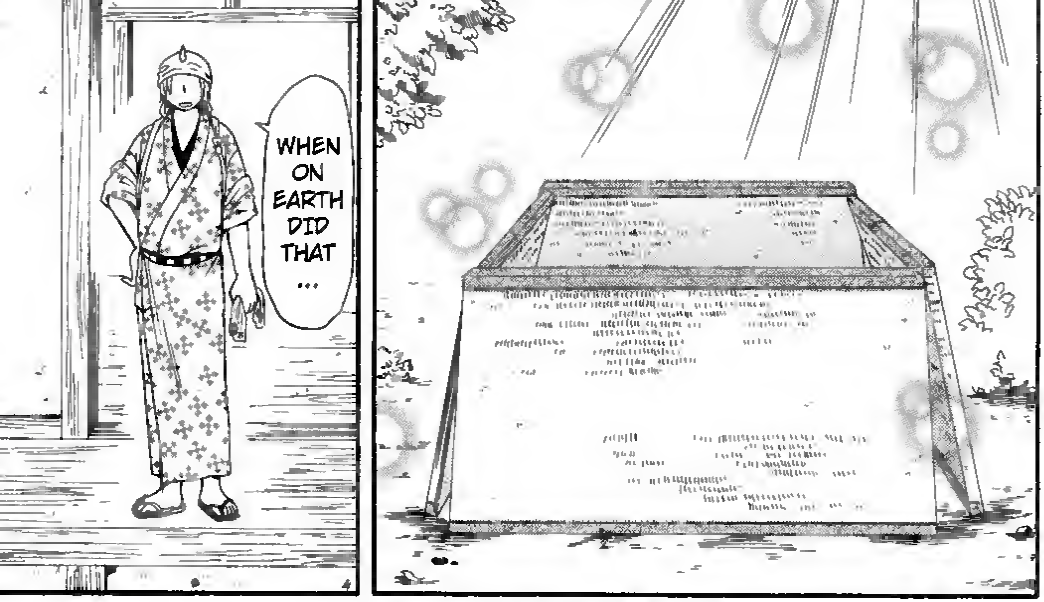
WOOSH
WOOSH
WOOSH
SIGN: CAT PAINTER JUBEI
GEEZ, THAT SCARED ME!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT BARREL ROLLED AWAY!
MEOW ...
LICK LICK
IT DRIED UP!!
YOU GUYS !!
WHAM
MEW...

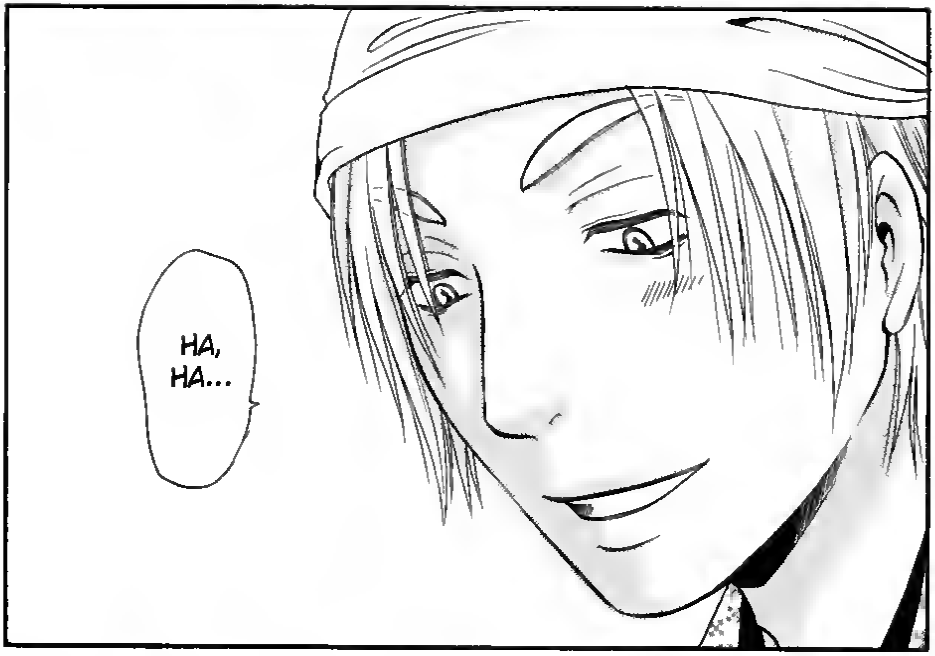
RAWWWR!!
THAT OR A NICE STEW!?
SHOULD I MAKE YOU INTO A FILLET?
EEEEEKK!!!
WE'RE SORRY! PLEASE FORGIVE US!!
HMPH.
DON'T EVER DO THAT AGAIN.
DO YOU GUYS HAVE SOME KIND OF UNLUCK-INESS INVOLVING WATER?
MEOWWW
MEOWW


THUMP
バタ
THUMP
バタ
IT'S NOT OVER YET.
YOU GUYS TOO, HUH...
WHUMP
ドタ
ドタ
WHUMP
ばさ
RUSTLE
ガタ
THUMP
"CHATTER"
わい
わい
THUMP
ガタ
AHH...
OOOHH...
うなな～
MEOW MEOW
なぁ～～
んな～
OOH...
OOOHH...
MEOWW
に～～
MEOW

はーっ
SIGH
LICK LICK
NITA, THE WIND IS SO COLD TODAY!
YEAH ...
ズビ SNIFFLE
ヒュウ
WOOOSHH
ル ル ル
ぶるる BRRR
ACHOO
LET'S USE THIS.
OKAY, OKAY.


MR. JUBEI ...
PEEK ひょこっ
CAN I HELP YOU WITH ANY-THING?
MY PLACE IS DONE NOW.
AH, MR. NISHI-URA.
I JUST HAVE TO PUT THE TATAMI BACK IN.
LEAVE THE HEAVY LIFTING TO ME!!
はは HA HA HA
OKAY, THEN I'LL TAKE YOU UP ON YOUR OFFER!
WHERE IS THE TATAMI ?
IT'S IN THE GARDEN ...

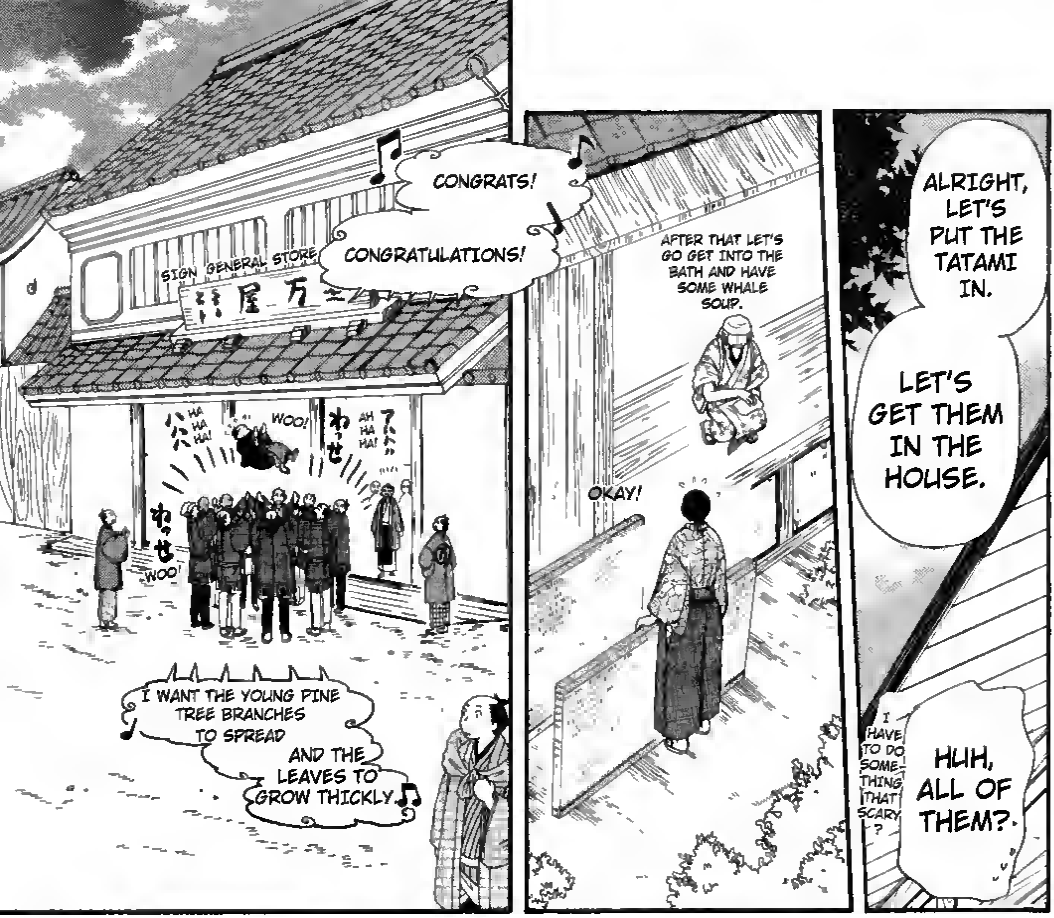

WHEN ON EARTH DID THAT ...


HA, HA...

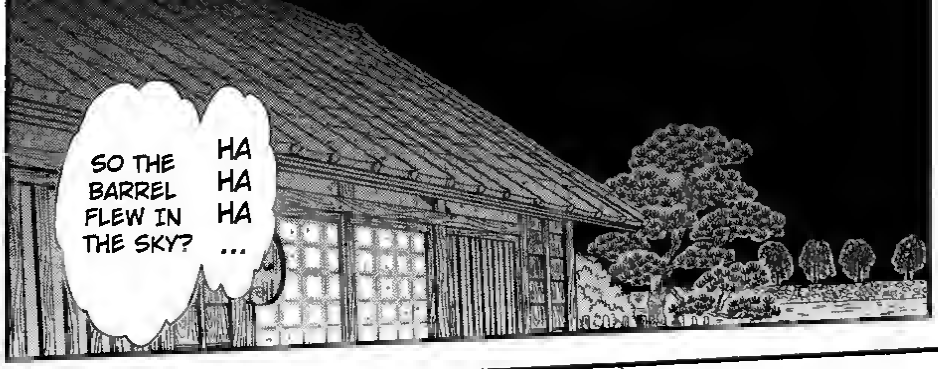
YEAH ?
MR. NISHIURA, COME HERE FOR A SEC.

SOME NICE NEW YEAR'S TREATS HAVE BEEN PREPARED ALREADY ...

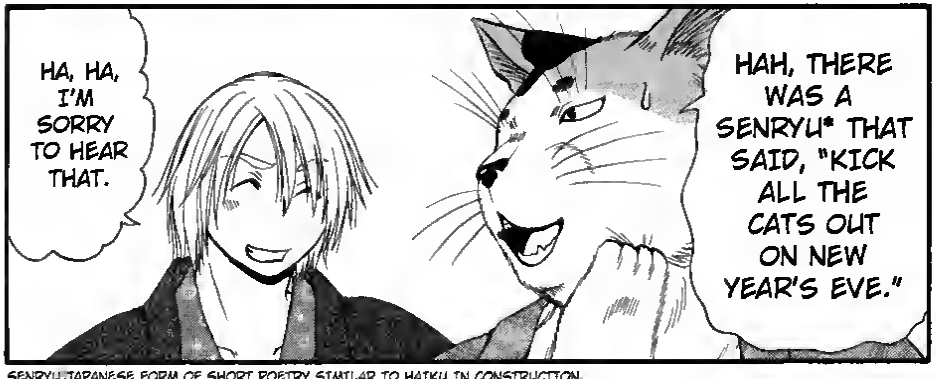
HEH
ふっ
LOOKS LIKE A STEW!


CONGRATS!
CONGRATULATIONS!
SIGN GENERAL STORE
HA HA HA!
WOO!
AH HA HA!
I WANT THE YOUNG PINE TREE BRANCHES TO SPREAD AND THE LEAVES TO GROW THICKLY
AFTER THAT LET'S GO GET INTO THE BATH AND HAVE SOME WHALE SOUP.
OKAY!
ALRIGHT, LET'S PUT THE TATAMI IN.
LET'S GET THEM IN THE HOUSE.
I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING THAT SCARY...?
HUH, ALL OF THEM?

CONGRATS...
CONGRATS
CONGRATS!
THANKS!
HAVE SOME SOUP!
DRINK TOO!
PUT ME DOWN ALREADY!
HA HA HA!
SIGN GENERAL STORE
AH HA HA!

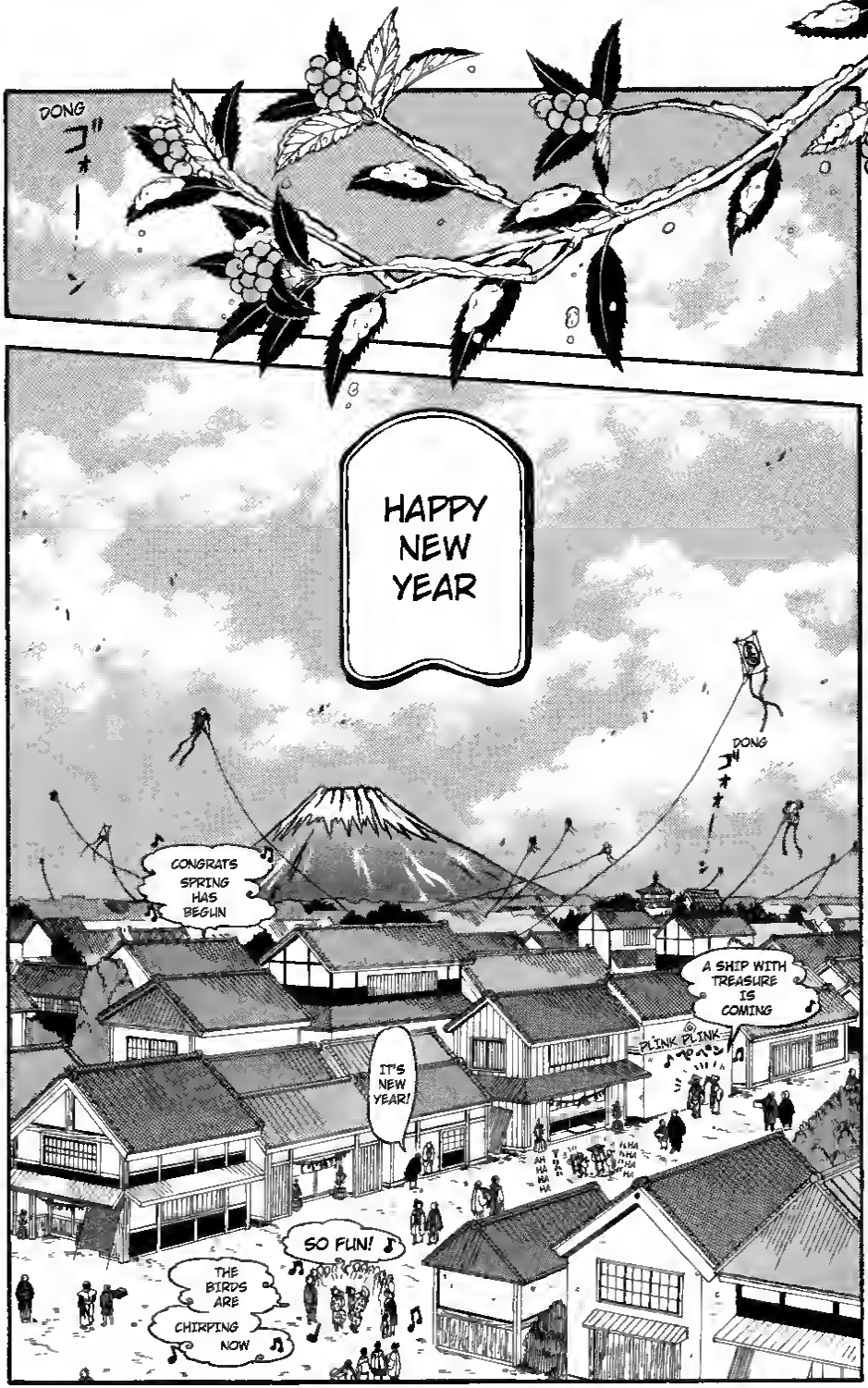


WELL, IT'S NEW YEAR'S EVE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!
IN DECEMBER, PEOPLE ARE LIVELY, OR RATHER TOO BUSY. I DON'T LIKE IT.
NOW JUST A BIT OF PATIENCE.
THAT WAS COLD ...



SENRYU: JAPANESE FORM OF SHORT POETRY SIMILAR TO HAIKU IN CONSTRUCTION.

HUH?
IT SEEMS LIKE IT STARTED SNOWING.
I HOPE NEW YEARS DAY IS SUNNY ...
DONG
YEAH ...
SLIDE
WOW, YOU'RE RIGHT.
SHALL WE GO SEE THE FIRST SUNRISE OF THE NEW YEAR?
HA HA ...
FORGET THAT, IT'S TOO COLD.
DONG



第二十四話 完

END OF CHAPTER 24

TALES OF A CAT PAINTER

猫絵十兵衛

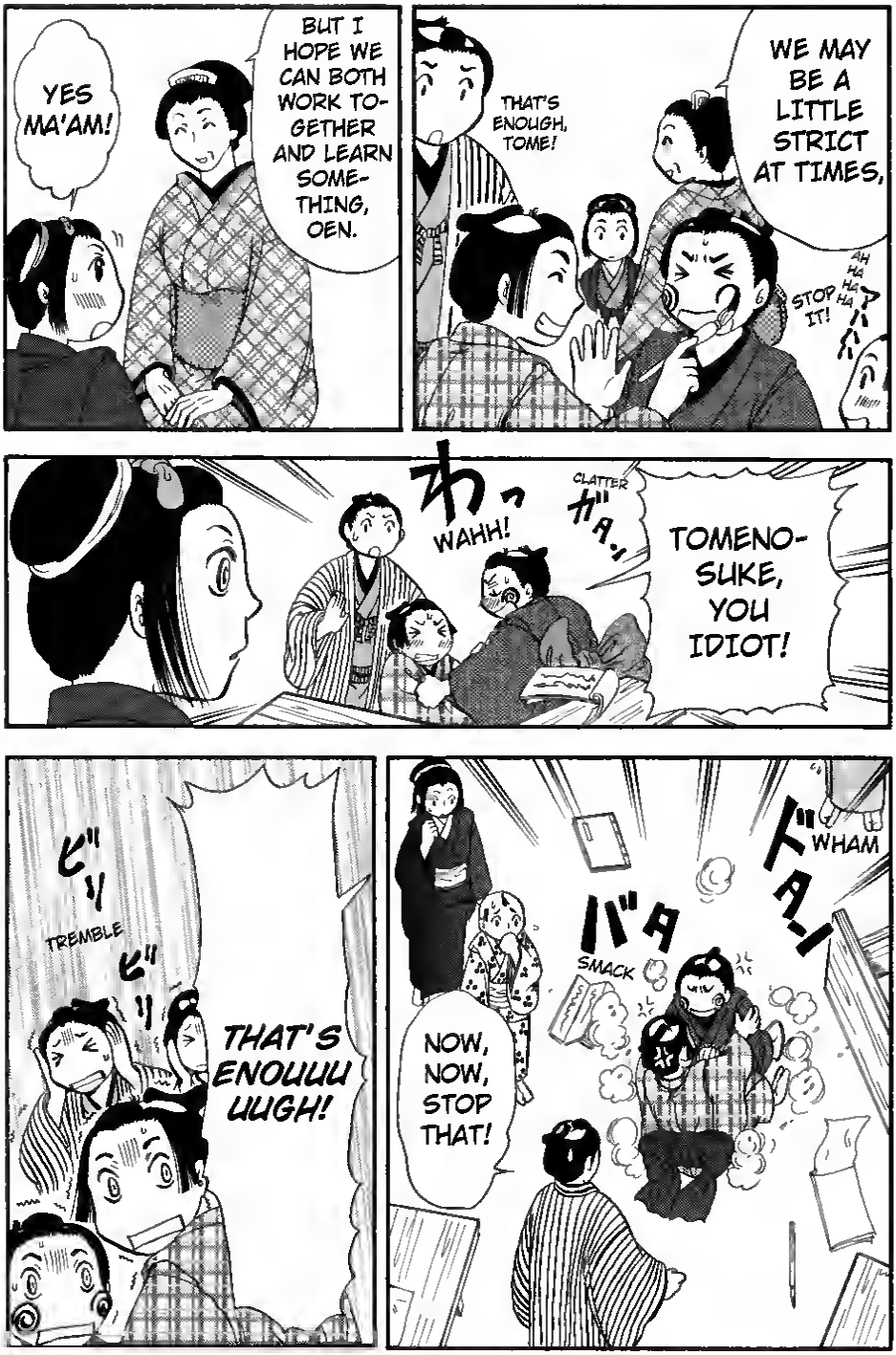
御伽草紙

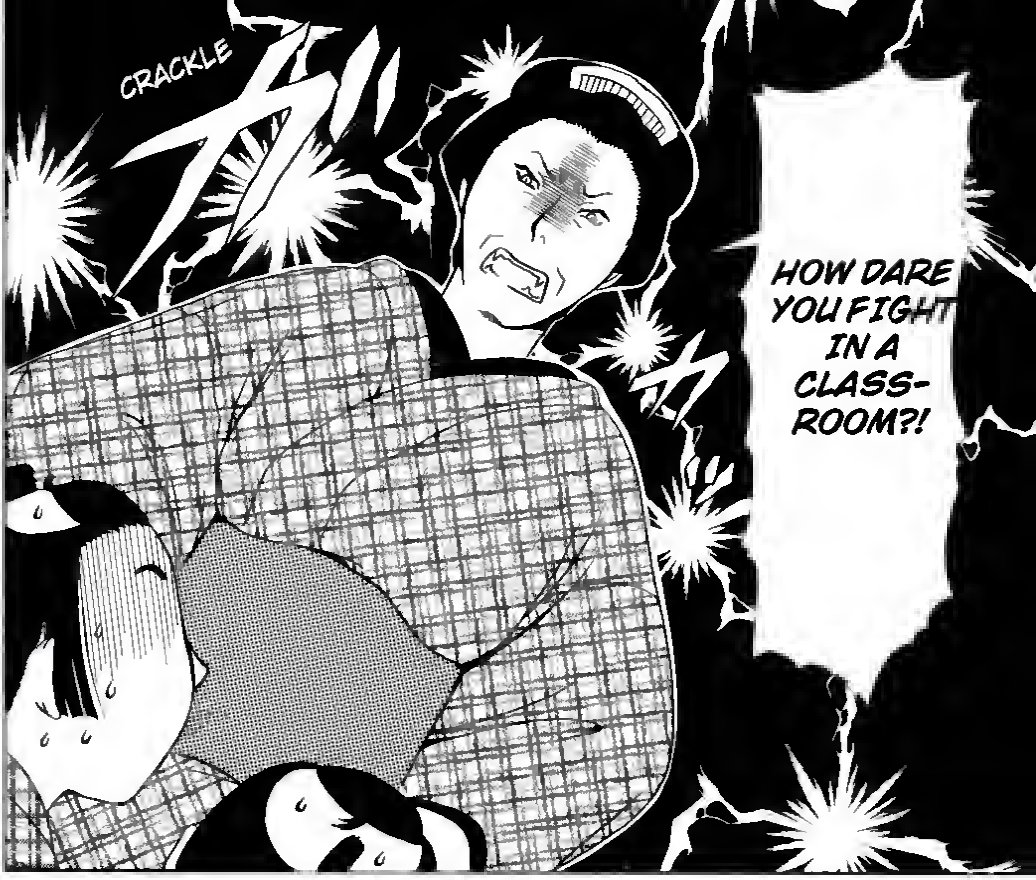
ねこえじゅうべえおとぎそうし

HEEEY! YOU READY YET?
HURRY IT UP!
OK, OK, I'M ALMOST DONE.
WHAT ARE YOU CARRYING THAT DESK FOR, MR. DAISUKE? GOING BACK TO TRAINING SCHOOL?
DON'T BE SILLY! I KNOW MY ABCS INSIDE AND OUT. THIS IS A DESK FOR OEN.
OOH.

OEN HAS A FRIEND WHO HAS JUST STARTED GOING TO THE SAME SCHOOL, SO SHE BEGGED US TO LET HER START EARLY.
I THOUGHT MOST CHILDREN STARTED IN LATE MARCH.
SHE'S STARTING SCHOOL ALREADY? BUT IT'S STILL ANOTHER MONTH UNTIL LATE MARCH.
HEY! YOU SURE TOOK YOUR SWEET TIME.
FATHER!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
I SEE YOU TIED YOUR HAIR UP, OEN.
YOU LOOK VERY NICE
HEE HEE! THANKS, MR. JUBEI.
WELL, OF COURSE SHE DOES. SHE'S MY DAUGHTER!

SIGN: CALLIGRAPHY CLASS
書道指南
KYA-HA-HA-HA!
I'LL BE OFF NOW!
JUST LEAVE IT TO ME.
GOOD MORNING, MS. OSONO. MY DAUGHTER IS A BIT RAMBUNC-TIOUS, BUT DON'T BE AFRAID TO GET A LITTLE STRICT WITH HER IN ORDER TO MAKE HER STUDY!


YES MA'AM!
BUT I HOPE WE CAN BOTH WORK TOGETHER AND LEARN SOMETHING, OEN.
WE MAY BE A LITTLE STRICT AT TIMES,
THAT'S ENOUGH, TOME!
STOP IT!
AH HA HA HA HA
わっ
WAHH!
CLATTER
ガタン
TOMENOSUKE, YOU IDIOT!
ドカン
WHAM
バタ
SMACK
NOW, NOW, STOP THAT!
ビリ
TREMBLE
ビリ
THAT'S ENOUUU UUGH!

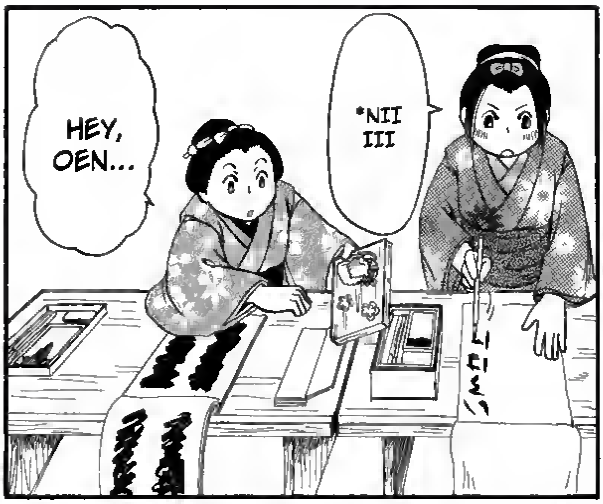

CRACKLE
HOW DARE YOU FIGHT IN A CLASS-ROOM?!

SKITTER
ﾊﾞﾀﾊﾞﾀ ﾊﾞﾀﾊﾞﾀ

NOW THEN, OEN, SHALL WE BEGIN?
OK.

MATSU-JIRO, GO WASH YOUR FACE OFF!
TOMONO-SUKE, SIT ON YOUR KNEES!
YES MA'AM!
YES MA'AM!

HEE HEE! TRUE, YOU DID GET YOUR SHARE OF PUNISHMENTS. SITTING ON YOUR KNEES, CARRYING FULL BUCKETS OF WATER...
THAT TEACHER'S GOT SOME INTENSITY, EH?
MAKES ME RE-MEMBER MY CHILD-HOOD.
THANK YOU!
HEY! YOU DON'T NEED TO LIST EVERY LITTLE THING!
TEE HEE!
*EEE EEE
*JAPANESE ALPHABET ORDER COMMONLY USED IN EDO PERIOD.



SHICHI-GO-SAN FESTIVAL. FESTIVAL (SHRINE VISIT) BY CHILDREN AGED 7, 5 AND 3

おかめ
WHA?!...
OKAME DEITY'S FACE
O..KA...ME
おかめ
PA-CHA!
ぽこん
...GRR!
べ~
PBBBPH!

WHAT'S THAT GUY'S PROB-LEM?!
WHIRL
WHIRL
THEN WHAT IS IT!? DOES THAT MEAN THAT MY CHEEKS ARE SO FAT THAT IT MADE HIM WRITE IT ON PAPER?
TOME WILL DO PRANKS BUT HE USUALLY DOESN'T CALL PEOPLE NAMES.
OEN...
HEY, COME ALONG, TOME!
HEHEH!
I HEARD THAT THE ONLY REASON YOUR FAMILY KEEPS THOSE CATS IS SO THAT THEY CAN SKIN THEM AND USE THEM FOR SHAMISEN SKIN!
OOO-KAAAAMEEEE!
OH NO, IT CAN'T BE!
PUFF

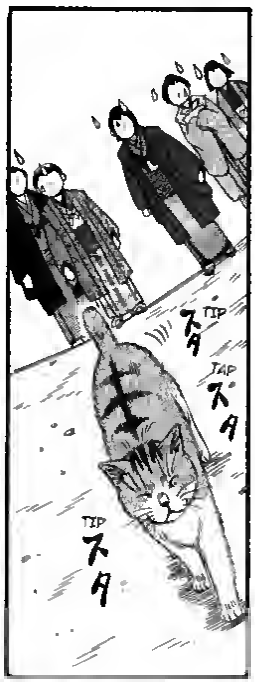
ばしっ
SLAP
YANK
TOMEEE!
MROWWW!
GRRRR!
STOP IT, YOU TWO!

SORRY.
ぱっ
HWAH
AHHH...
ぴっ
ぴっ
SWISH
SWISH
PURRRRR
TIP
TAP
スタ
スタ
TURN
くりっ
TIP
スタ
TAP
スタ

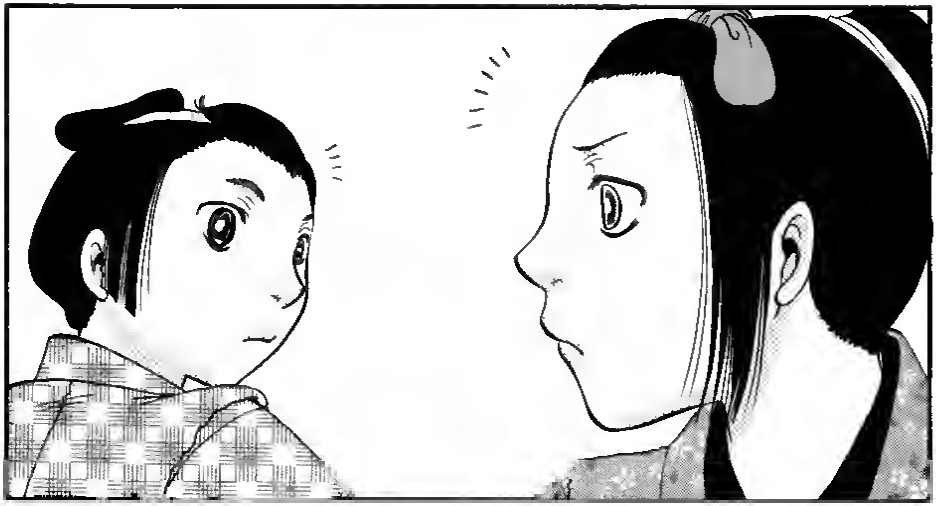
MRRROW.

PURRR

LOOKS LIKE WE GOT SCOLDED A BIT.
SNICKER
くすっ
Y...YEAH.


TIP
TAP
TIP

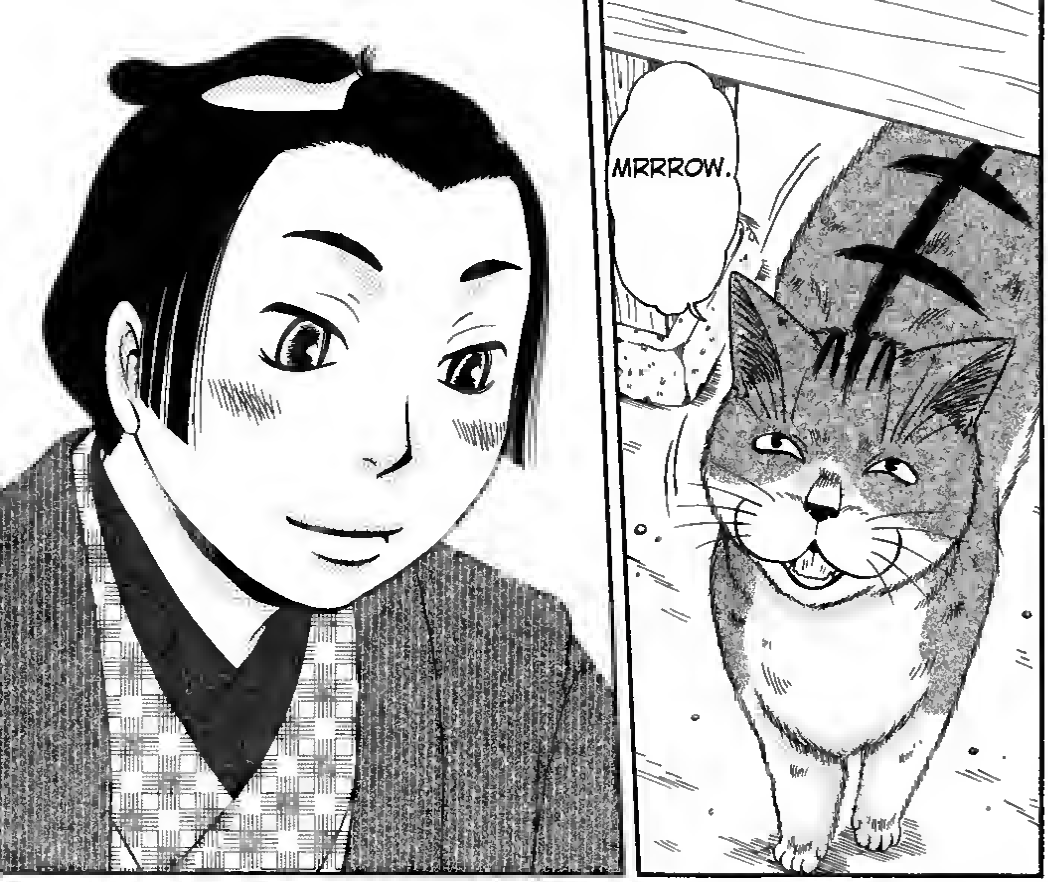
わい CLAMOR
CLAMOR わい
YOU'VE REALLY GOTTEN BETTER AT WRITING, OEN.
KEEP IT UP!
YES MA'AM!
HEY, CON-GRATS, OEN!
TOMEEEEE!
MS. OSONO!

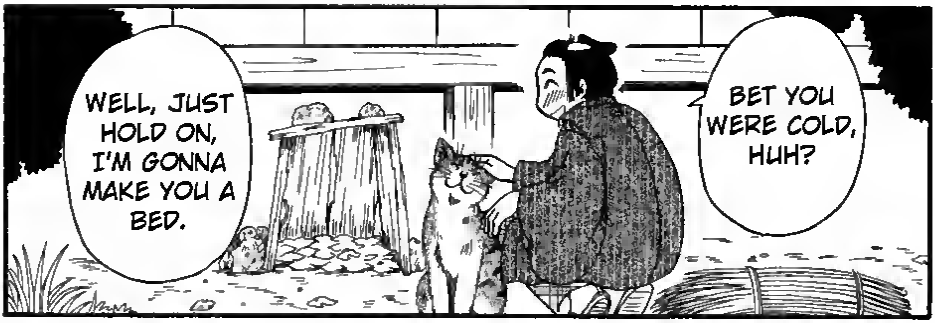


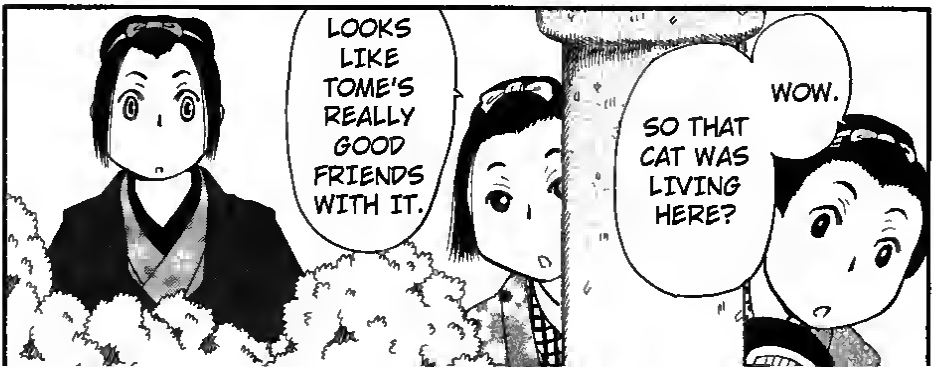
ぷい。
TURN AWAY

AHH!
MAYBE IT'S GONNA SNOW.
BRRRR, IT'S COLD!
WHEW
TAKE CARE!
THANK YOU!
BYE BYE!
NO.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME TO MAKE UP?
WE WERE NEVER FRIENDS TO BEGIN WITH!

IT'S TOME!
WHERE'S HE GOING WITH ALL THAT STRAW?
SSSSHH!
C'MON, LET'S GO HOME!
きょろ
FLIT
きょろ
FLIT
HEY, YOU HERE?


MRRROW.

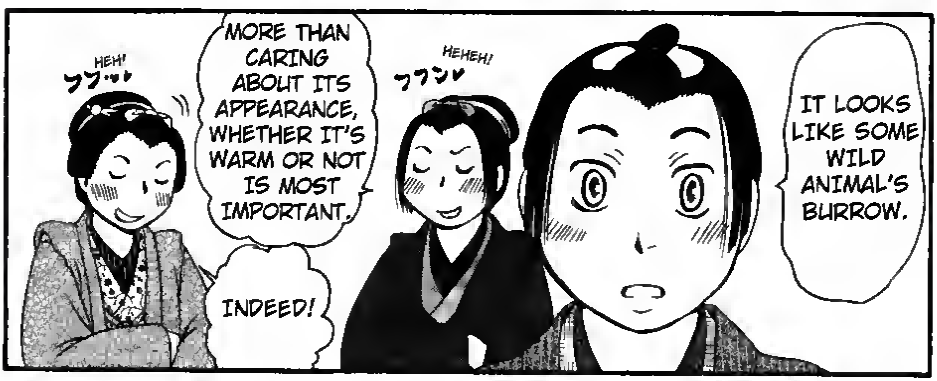

WELL, JUST HOLD ON, I'M GONNA MAKE YOU A BED.
BET YOU WERE COLD, HUH?

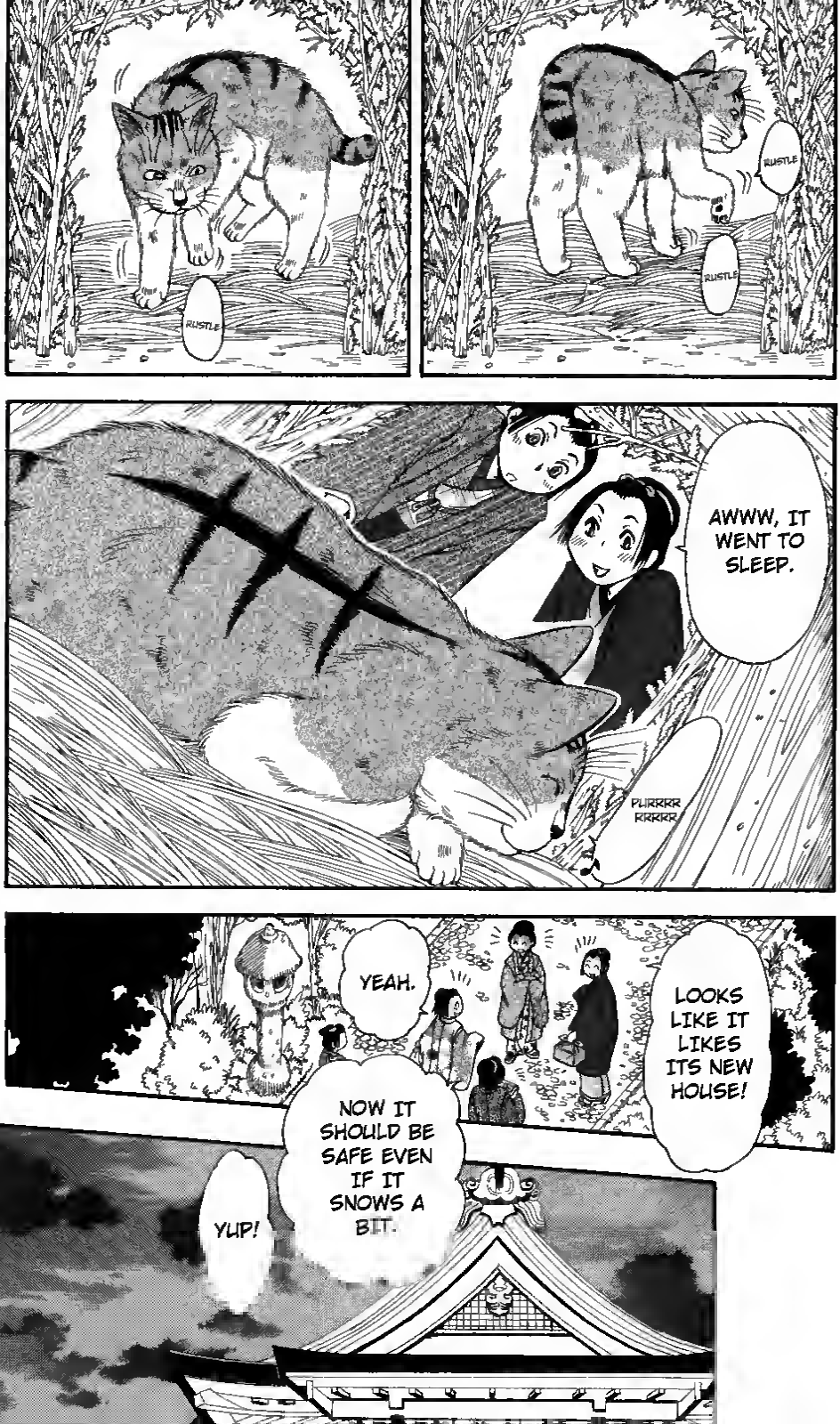

LOOKS LIKE TOME'S REALLY GOOD FRIENDS WITH IT.
WOW. SO THAT CAT WAS LIVING HERE?

YOU CAN'T FEED RICE CAKES TO CATS!
THEY'LL CHOKE ON THEM!
OEN...
MEEE EOOW WWW.
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
ALL I HAVE ARE SOME SWEET POTATO RICE CAKES.
MY AFTER-NOON SNACK.
RUSTL-S
AHHH!
H-HEY!
HOW LONG HAVE YOU ALL BEEN THERE?
AH.
AHAHAHA-HAHA!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I EVER TOUCHED A CAT.
WOW!
MRR-ROWWW.
HERE, HAVE THE REST OF MY LUNCH.

UH... UMMM.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
SO CUUUUTE!
PURRRR
O-ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL ...
UH...ABOUT, UH, THE STUFF I SAID TO YOU
HUH?
GOOD IDEA!
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT! LET'S PUT SOME MOSS AND TWIGS AROUND IT TOO.
HM?
LET'S DO IT.
HEY, I THINK THIS PLACE WILL STILL BE TOO COLD EVEN WITH THE STRAW.
I-I'M SORRY!

あはは
AHAH AHAHA!
DON'T MIND US!
WHAT ARE YOU GIRLS DOING?
MMMM-MMROW?

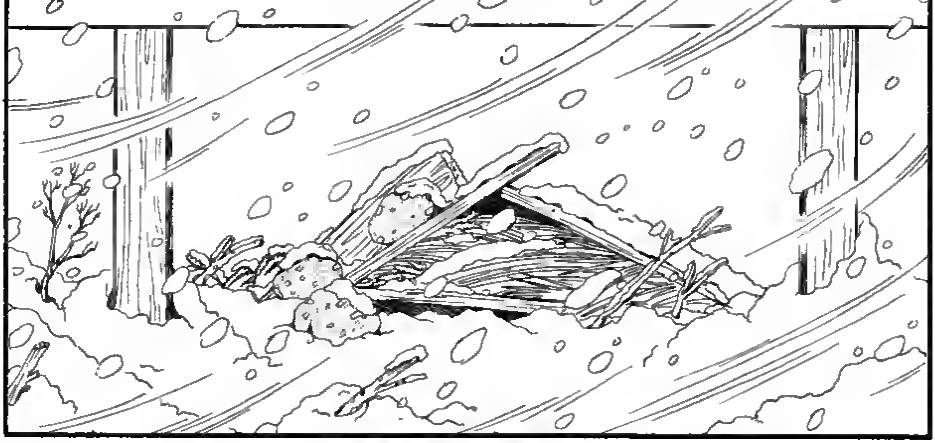

HEH!
フフッ
MORE THAN CARING ABOUT ITS APPEARANCE, WHETHER IT'S WARM OR NOT IS MOST IMPORTANT.
INDEED!
HEHEH!
フフン
IT LOOKS LIKE SOME WILD ANIMAL'S BURROW.

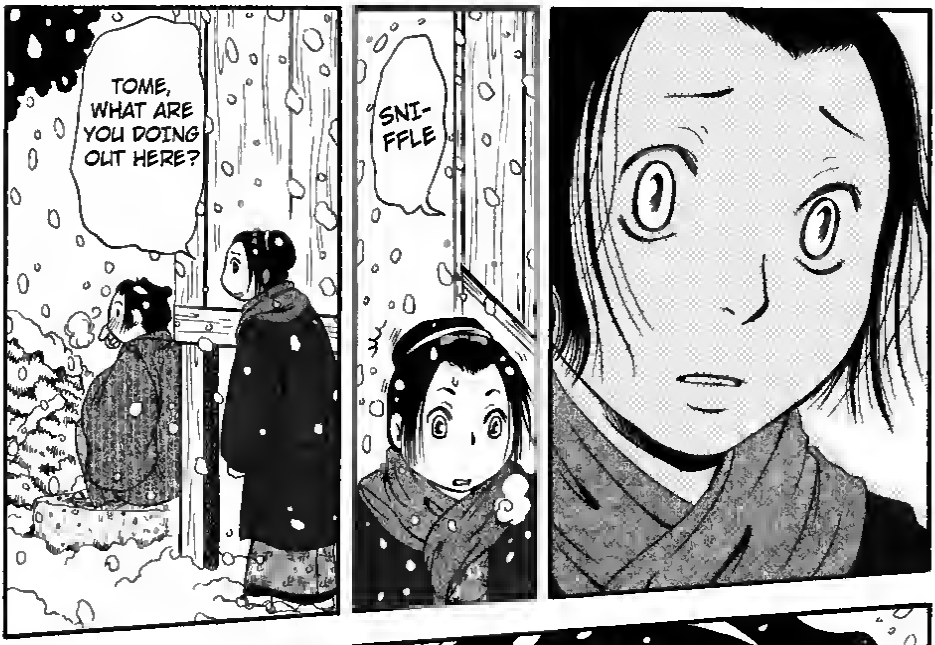

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
AWWW, IT WENT TO SLEEP.
PURRRR RRRRR
LOOKS LIKE IT LIKES ITS NEW HOUSE!
YEAH.
NOW IT SHOULD BE SAFE EVEN IF IT SNOWS A BIT.
YUP!

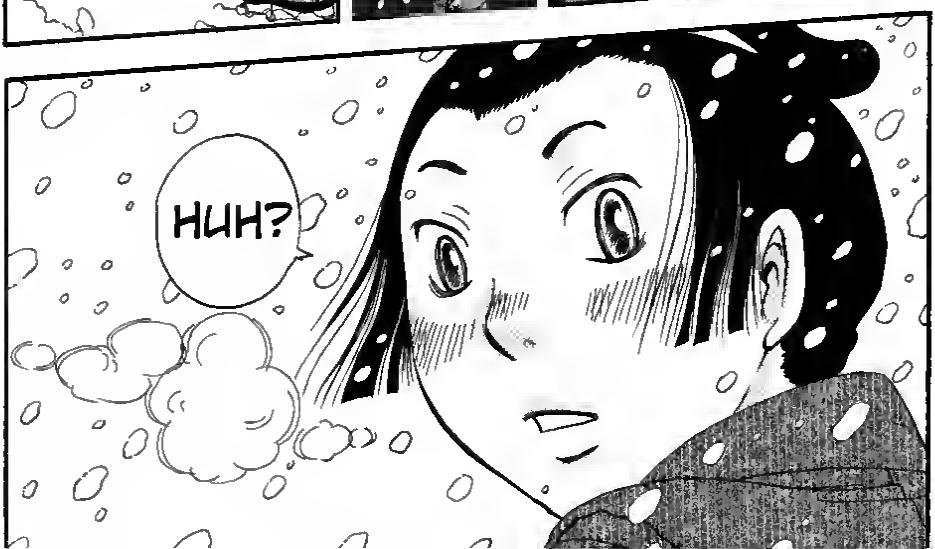
ざく
CRUNCH
ざく
CRUNCH

CRUNCH
CRUNCH

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
HERE, KITTY!
ハァ
WHEW



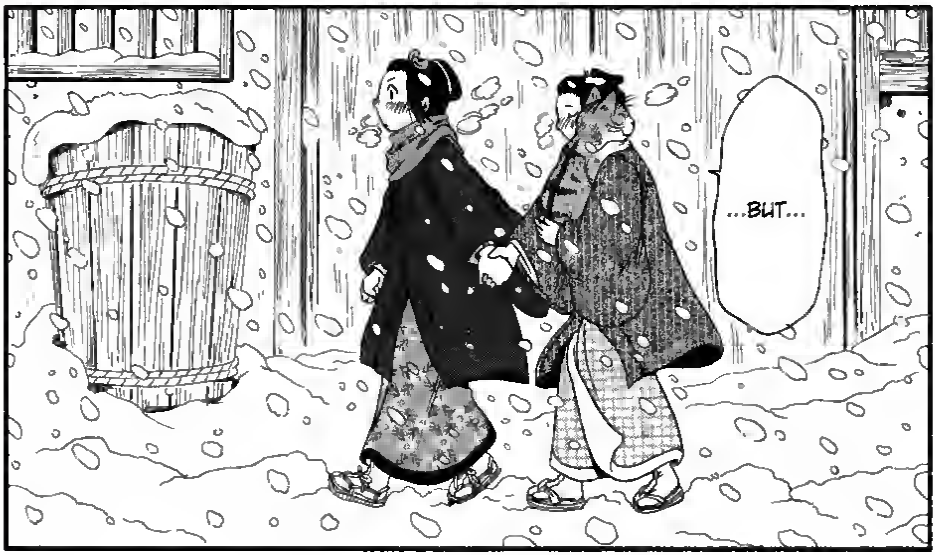

TOME, WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
SNI-FFLE


HUH?

POP
ぬっ
MRRR-ROW!
I CAME OUT EARLY THIS MORNING...
WHUMP
へなり
OH GOOD, THE CAT'S ALRIGHT.
UHH...
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE, TOME?

TO MY HOUSE. IT'S TOO COLD TO BE SITTING OUTSIDE.
GO... WHERE?
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
LET'S GO.
ADDING ONE MORE CAT TO OUR HOUSE ISN'T GOING TO MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.
BUT...
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY. WE DON'T MAKE CATS INTO SKIN ON A SHAMISEN.
R... REALLY?
CRUNCH
CRUNCH

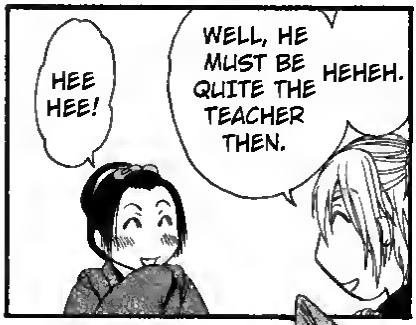
I TRIED ASKING MY PARENTS IF THEY COULD JUST LET ME BRING THE CAT IN FOR THE NIGHT.
LAST NIGHT WHEN IT WAS SNOWING,
IF ANIMAL HAIR WERE TO GET INTO OUR FOOD, IT'D RUIN OUR BUSINESS, SO I CAN'T HAVE ANY PETS.
UH-HUH?
MY FAMILY...
...MAKES RICE CAKES.

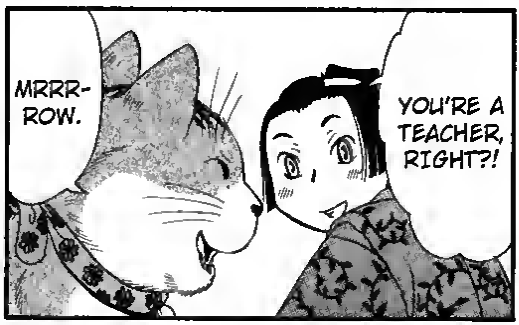

...BUT...

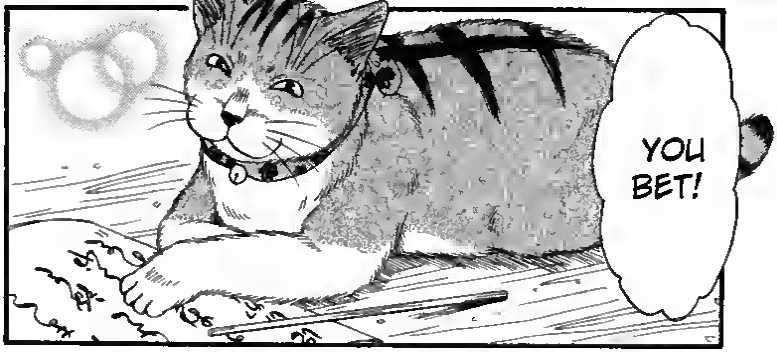
OK ...
GRIP
THEY WOULDN'T PERMIT IT.
SNIFF-LE
SNIFF-LE
OK.

WHOOSH
LOOK! YOU'RE ALL COVERED IN SNOW!
M...MS. OSONO!
GLARE
WHAT ARE YOU WALKING AROUND IN THIS SNOW-STORM FOR?!
YOU TWO!!
TWITCH

CHIRP CHIRP
CHIRP CHIRP
YOU REALLY WANT TO SIT ON YOUR KNEES THAT BADLY?
N-NO MA'AM...
COME ON INSIDE.
B-BUT WE HAVE A CAT...
南
OH, IT'S MR. JUBEI!
EXCUSE ME! IS MS. OSONO HERE?
OH MY. WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?
WOW! IT'S A BOOK ABOUT CATS!
THE OURAI-MONO* THAT SHE ASKED ME TO DRAW PICTURES FOR GOT FINISHED.
I PICKED UP A COPY WHEN I WENT TO GO SEE THE PUBLISHER
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
RUSTLE
*OURAI-MONO TEXTBOOKS FOR CHILDREN

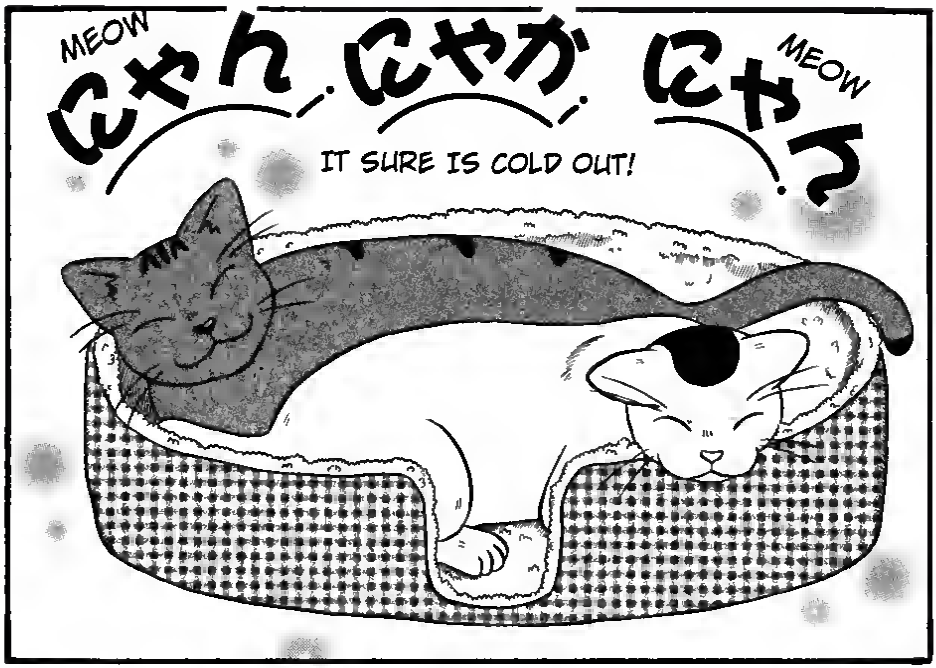




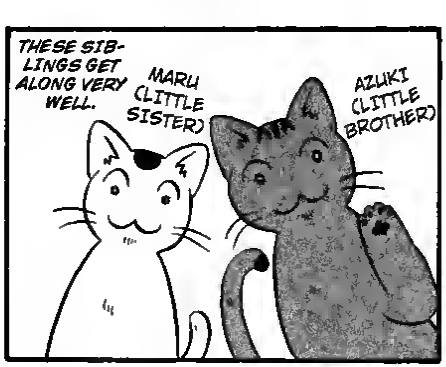


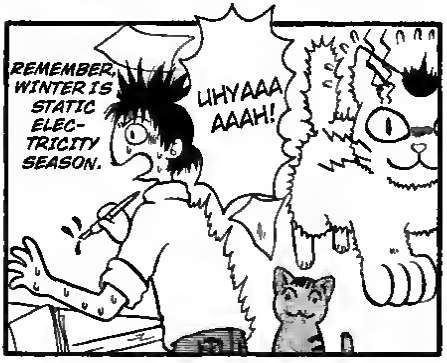
第二十五話 完

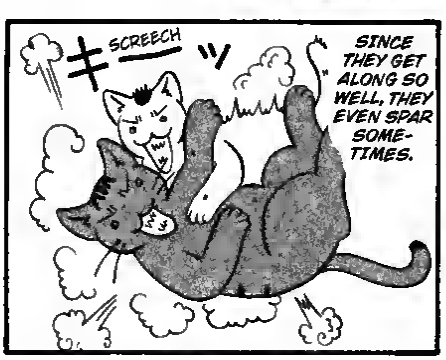
END OF CHAPTER 25


MEOW
にゃん
にゃが
にゃう
MEOW
IT SURE IS COLD OUT!

BAM!
ZAP ZAP
ハチハチ

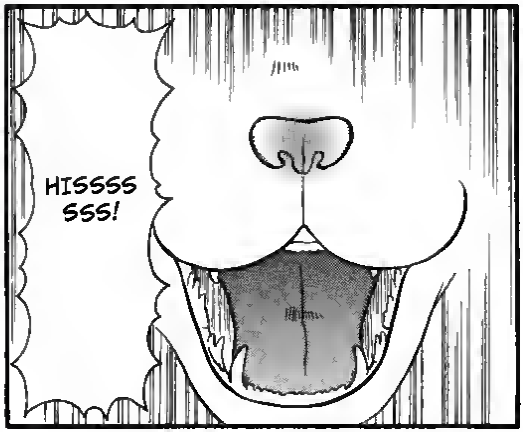

THESE SIBLINGS GET ALONG VERY WELL.
MARU (LITTLE SISTER)
AZUKI (LITTLE BROTHER)

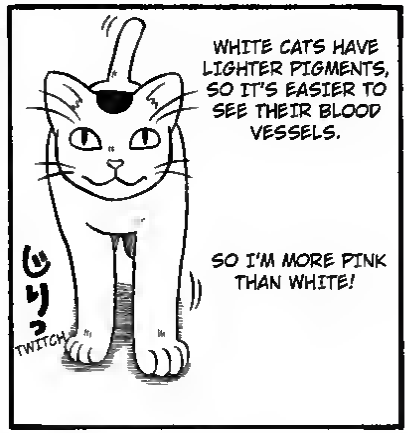

REMEMBER, WINTER IS STATIC ELECTRICITY SEASON.
UHYAAAAAH!

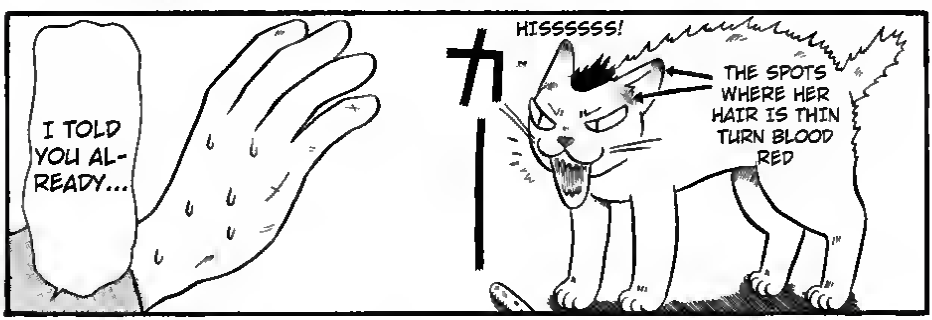

SCREECH
SINCE THEY GET ALONG SO WELL, THEY EVEN SPAR SOMETIMES.

BROTHER AND SISTER

MARU AND CHEESE FISH CAKES

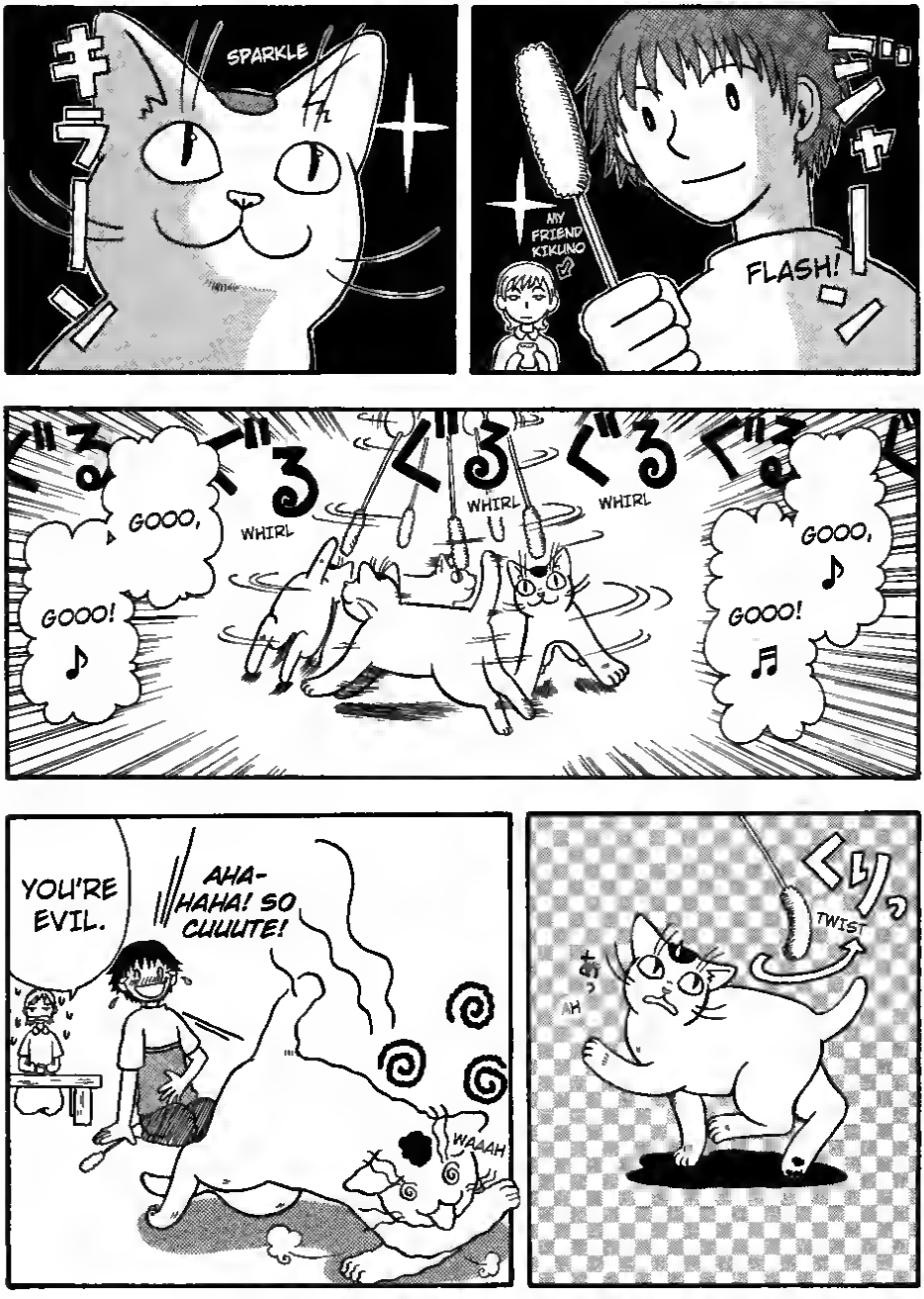




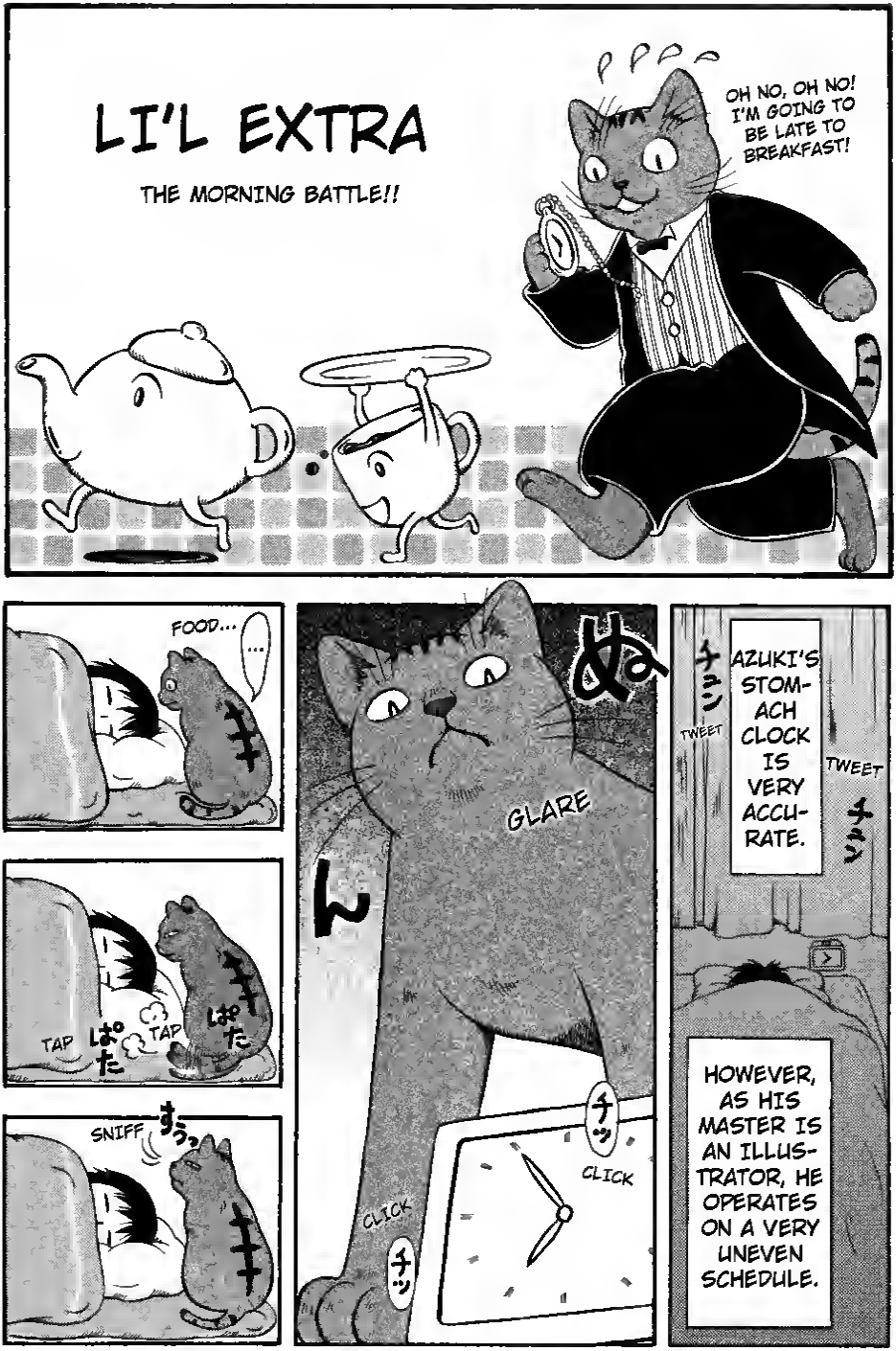


A DANGEROUS FLUFFBALL

ROUND AND ROUND

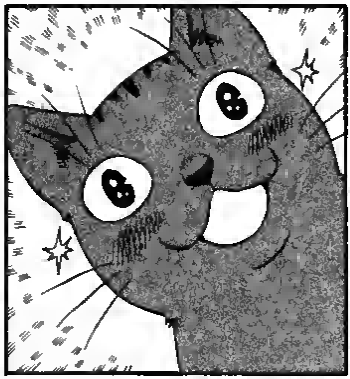


THE END

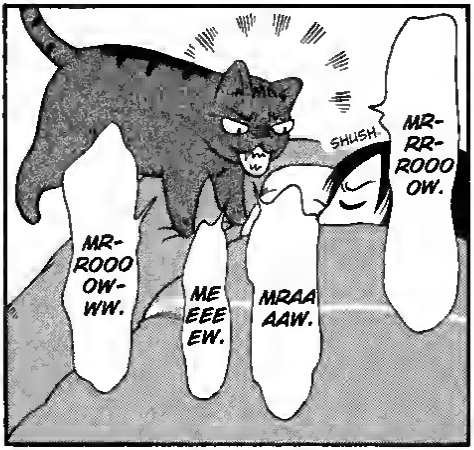

LI'L EXTRA
THE MORNING BATTLE!!
OH NO, OH NO! I'M GOING TO BE LATE TO BREAKFAST!
FOOD...
...
TAP
ぽた
TAP
ぽた
SNIFF
すぅっ
GLARE
CLICK
ナッ
CLICK
ナッ
AZUKI'S STOMACH CLOCK IS VERY ACCURATE.
TWEET
チュン
TWEET
チュン
HOWEVER, AS HIS MASTER IS AN ILLUSTRATOR, HE OPERATES ON A VERY UNEVEN SCHEDULE.

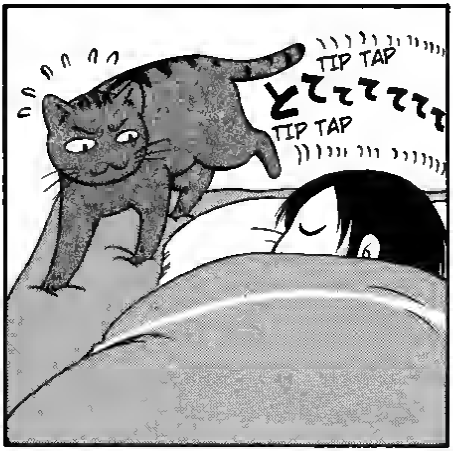
MEEEEEEW (I WANNA EAAAAT!)
MYAAA
MRU-UUUUUUU-WWR (I'M HUNGRY!)
MROW
MR-ROOOOOOW-WWR (FOOOOOOD!)

IT ISN'T TIME TO WAKE UP YET!
FLIP
LIAR



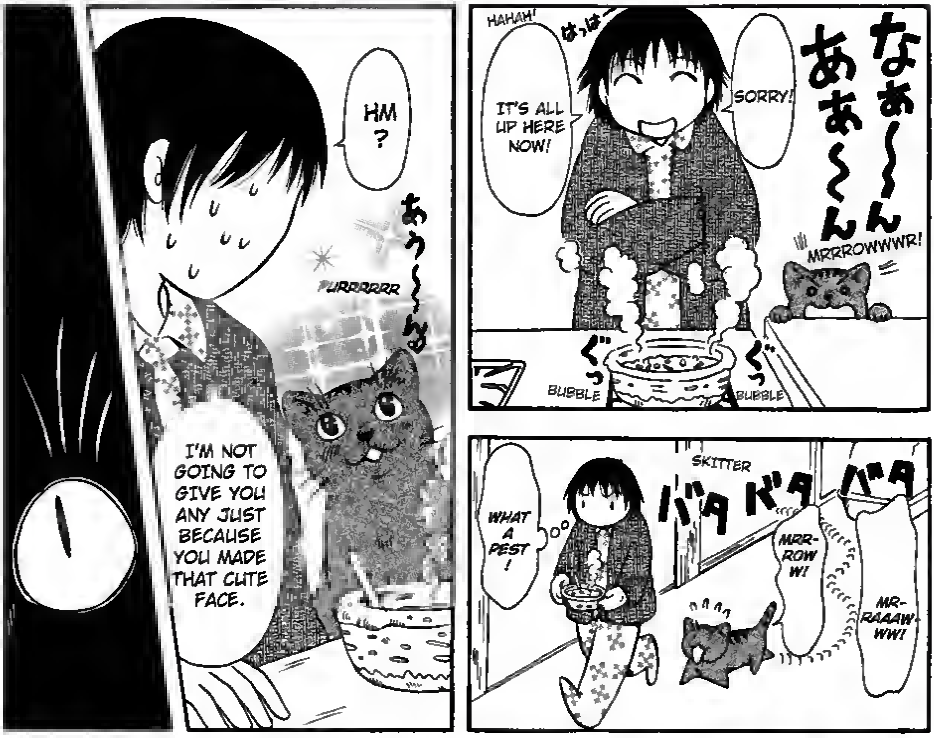
AAAA ZUUU KIII I...

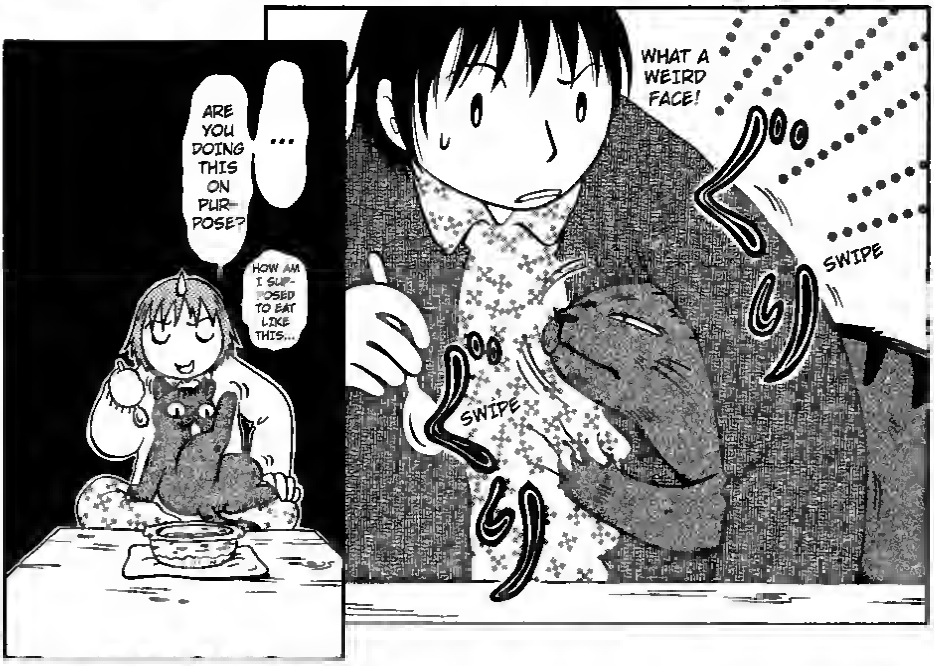

MR-ROOOW-WW.
ME EEE EW.
MRAA AAW.
SHUSH
MR-RR-ROOO OW.


TIP TAP
TIP TAP

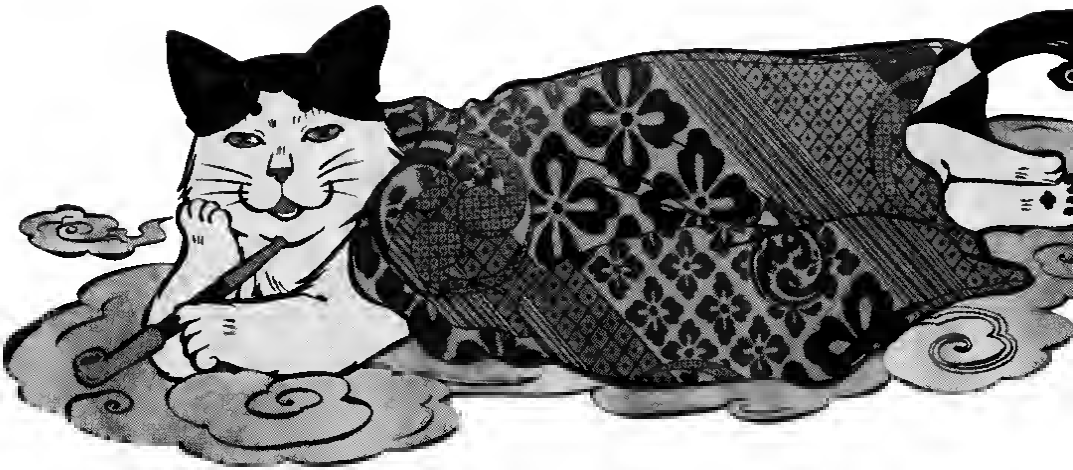
...
AHH
C'MON, YOU'RE REALLY ANNOY-ING ME.
ざ～～～し LICK...!
ざ～～～し LICK...!
ざ～～し LICK...!
UUU
UUUGGH ...
THROB
THROB
7.8 kg
OW...
HOP
7.8 kg
HE UTILIZED HIS WEIGHT FOR A CLEVER ATTACK!
THIS HUUURTS!
IT'S NUMB!

GRATE
RICE GRUEL WITH EGG AND FISH FLAKES.
NOW FOR HUMAN BREAK FAST:
IT'S THAT YUMMY, HUH?
MUNCH MUNCH
MRRRROWWWR!
あにゃあああ
COME ON, I HARDLY GOT ANY SLEEP.
RATTLE カラ カラ
ほにゃあああ
MRAAAAWWW!
FLIT
ぴっ
カシッ
GRATE
カシッ
GRATE
カシッ
GRATE
OK, NOW'S MY CHANCE!
GRATE
カシ
MRR-ROOOW!
カシ
カシ
GRATE
カシカシカシ
ぴらっ
FLUTTER
I KNEW IT!
しゃっ
わっ
WAAAH H!
MRR-ROWW-WWR!


HM?
あう～ん
PURRRRR
I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE YOU ANY JUST BECAUSE YOU MADE THAT CUTE FACE.
HAHAH!
はっは
SORRY!
IT'S ALL UP HERE NOW!
なぁ～ん
あぁ～ん
MRRROWWWR!
ぐっ
BUBBLE
ぐっ
BUBBLE
SKITTER
バタ
ドタ
バタ
WHAT A PEST!
MRR-ROW W!
MR-RAAAW-WW!


ARE YOU DOING THIS ON PUR-POSE?
...
HOW AM I SUP-POSED TO EAT LIKE THIS...
WHAT A WEIRD FACE!
SWIPE
SWIPE

THE END



初出 FIRST PUBLISHED

TALES OF A CAT PAINTER
猫絵十兵衛 御伽草紙

『ねこぱんち』'08.㉔～'09.㉙
"NEKO PUNCH" 2008 (24) - 2009 (29)
にゃん にゃか にゃん MEOW MEOW MEOW

'00頃『にゃんこ通信』
2000 "KITTY NEWS"
てげてげ雑記 LI'L EXTRA

掲載年不明『Cats』
YEAR OF PUBLICATION UNKNOWN "CATS"

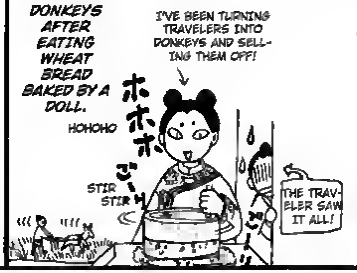
あとのはなし

OTHER STORIES

IN ENGLAND, THERE'S A LEGEND THAT SAYS IF YOU EAT OR DRINK IN THE WORLD OF THE FAIRIES, THEN YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE FOR SEVEN YEARS.

THERE ARE MANY OLD LEGENDS ABOUT PEOPLE WHO TURN INTO ANIMALS AFTER EATING FOOD OR TAKING BATHS IN STRANGE PLACES.

IN CHINA, THERE'S A STORY ABOUT PEOPLE WHO TURN INTO DONKEYS AFTER EATING WHEAT BREAD BAKED BY A DOLL.

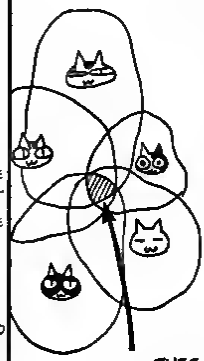


IN THIS VOLUME, WE SAW HOW NITA AND JUBEI MET.

THIS FOURTH VOLUME WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY YOU.

SPEAKING OF WAITING, HACHI THE DOG IS PRETTY FAMOUS, BUT YOU KNOW, CATS WAIT TOO.

A CAT KEPT WAITING IN FRONT OF THE CLOSED SHUTTER TO A STORE WHERE HIS ELDERLY MASTER HAD DIED
(THE NEIGHBORS WERE NICE ENOUGH TO CARE FOR HIM, SO THERE WAS NO NEED TO WORRY.)
POOR KITTY...



SOMETHING THAT CAME UP IN THE "WAITING CAT" CHAPTER...THERE ARE DIVIDED OPINIONS ON THIS, BUT THE CONSENSUS THAT IS MALE CATS HAVE TERRITORY FROM 500~1000M FROM THEIR HOUSE, AND FEMALES HAVE TERRITORY FROM 150~250M. PRETTY WIDE!

BE SURE YOU'RE CAREFUL NOT TO EAT ANY STRANGE FOOD!

CAT LULLABY: A LULLABY IS A CRADLE SONG FOR BABIES FROM THAT TIME PERIOD.

*WHEN FATHER DIES, BURY HIM AT THE SIDE OF THE ROAD...

JAPANESE LULLABIES ARE REALLY DARK FOR SOME REASON.

PEOPLE IN THE EDO ERA LOVED PLAYING PRANKS, WHETHER IT WAS SIMPLY A WAY TO RELIEVE FRUSTRATION, OR WHETHER THEY REALLY LIKED SHOCKING PEOPLE. SOME OF THEIR BIGGER PRANKS TOWARD THE END OF THE ERA INCLUDED AMASSING A GIANT MOUND OF FECES THAT MANY PEOPLE CONTRIBUTED TO, AND LETTING A KITE WITH A SEVERED HEAD PAINTED ON IT FLY ALL OVER TOWN.

WOAAAAH!

うへぇ～

*MY IMAGINATION

NOW FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE "CAT MONSTER UPROAR," A.K.A. "HANG IN THERE, NISHIURA!"

I THOUGHT I DID MY BEST...

ANOTHER END-OF-THE-YEAR EVENT WAS "SEKIZORO," WHERE PEOPLE WOULD RUN AROUND OUTSIDE HOUSES AND COLLECT COINS.

*IT WAS REALLY NOISY!

IN "THE DECEMBER CAT," WE SEE THE BIG CLEANING DURING THE END OF THE YEAR THAT WAS SORT OF A FESTIVAL IN ITS OWN RIGHT. IT USED TO BE CALLED "SOOT SWEEPING" SINCE CHARCOAL AND BRIQUETTES WERE OFTEN USED FOR HEATING, ALONG WITH CANDLES AND OIL FOR LIGHT. EVERYTHING MADE A LOT OF SOOT. IT WAS CUSTOMARY TO EAT WHALE SOUP AFTER ALL THE CLEANING WAS FINISHED.

*THEY WOULD ALSO GATHER UP AND TOSS PEOPLE INTO THE AIR. (LOL)

*IT WAS REALLY A PAIN FOR US CATS!

I USED SONGS THAT "GOZE" USED TO SING FOR INSPIRATION FOR THE SONGS IN THE STORY.

GOZE WAS A TITLE FOR BLIND FEMALE PERFORMERS THAT ORIGINATED IN THE MUROMACHI PERIOD. THEY WOULD SING WITH SHAMISEN AND TRAVEL AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR READING UNTIL THE END! SEE YOU NEXT TIME!

THANK YOU TO ALL READERS AND EDITORS. SPECIAL THANKS TO MADOKA, MIMOZO, GON-CHAN, AND MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

LOOKING AT UKIYO-E PICTURES, YOU CAN SEE CHILDREN STUDYING DILIGENTLY, AND OTHER CHILDREN GOOFING OFF OR YAWNING, SO IT SEEMS LIKE THE SCHOOLS WERE VERY LIVELY. OF COURSE THE TEACHERS WERE IN CHARGE, BUT OLDER CHILDREN WOULD ALSO STEP IN TO TEACH THE YOUNGER ONES, SO IT SEEMS LIKE IT WAS A PRETTY FUN PLACE. THE LITERACY RATE IN EDO WAS THE HIGHEST IN THE WORLD!

*JAPANESE PEOPLE REALLY LOVE BOOKS!

*WHAT'S THIS CHARACTER?

*COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM MODERN SCHOOLS!

IN "SNOW CAT," WE LEARNED ABOUT TERAKOYA SCHOOLS. IN EDO (TOKYO), THEY CALLED TERAKOYA BY A DIFFERENT NAME: "TENARAI."

コミック604

【ねこぱんちコミックス】

猫絵十兵衛(ねこえじゅうべえ)～御伽草紙(おとぎそうし)～四

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カバーデザイン　L.S.D. シマダヒデアキ

編集担当　松澤良信

コミックス担当　川合泉

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電話／03(3262)3501

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